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MARRIAGES.

On the 10th October, at H.B.M.'s Consulate, Kobe, by F. W. Playfair, Esq., Pro-Consul, and afterwards at the Union Church by the Rev. Sidney Swann, Chaplain, assisted by the Rev. C. G. Gardner, MAUD FRANCES, daughter of A. J. McGLEW, Esq., of Kobe, to HENRY ADOLPH, eldest son of Henry Edward BRUSH, Esq., of Newchwang.

On the 17th of October, 1895, at Her Britannic Majesty's Consulate, and afterwards at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., BRENNAN ATKINSON, to AMELIE SOPHIE (AMY), eldest daughter of JOHN GOULD.

DEATHS.

At the residence of Rev. C. M. Landis, Meiji Gaku-in, Tokyo, at 1.30 a.m. October 11th, Rev. GEORGE EDWARD WOODHULL, of Osaka.

At Shanghai, on the 13th of October, 1895, MARY ANNE DE RAGO, aged 60 years, the beloved wife of the late Joachim de Rago.

At Yokohama (by telegram), on the 16th October, ALEXANDER CHRISTIAN FRIEDRICH BIELEFELD, of Shanghai, aged 56 years. Deeply regretted.

On board steamer *Tehhsing*, at Shanghai, on the 17th of October, 1895, O. H. ARNOTT, late Chief Officer, aged 46 years.

At Shanghai, on the 18th of October, 1895, ANACLETO F. DOS REMEDIOS, aged 55 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The English mail of the 20th September arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Mirzapore*, on the 19th October (29 days); the German mail of the 23rd September arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, on the 21st October (28 days); and the American mail of the 24th September arrived, per P. M. steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, on the 21st October (27 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Nine of the rioters concerned in the Chengtn disturbances in May last were executed on the 18th ult.

A number of the Kucheng murderers have been executed and it is expected that the Commission will shortly be dissolved.

The annual meeting of the Canton Insurance Office, Limited, was held on the 19th inst., when the report and accounts were passed.

A public meeting was held at Hongkong on the 21st inst. at which H.E. the Governor announced the formation of a Public Library.

The wreck of the *St. Pancras*, as it lies on the Labuan reefs, with its cargo, has been sold by auction at Singapore for \$105 to a European bidder.

In the interport cricket matches at Yokohama the match between Yokohama and Shanghai was drawn. Kobe beat Shanghai by an innings and 125 runs.

The Blue Funnel steamer *Glaucus* has, the *Hyogo News* understands, been sold to the Japanese, and arrangements are proceeding for the steamer's transfer at Kobe.

A serious fire broke out on the steamer *Wieland* at Singapore on the 15th inst. The vessel was bound from Manila to Liverpool with a cargo of hemp and sugar.

The O. & O. steamer *Belgic*, which stranded on the eastern point of Tokyo Bay, was floated on the 10th inst. After being temporarily repaired she will come to Hongkong to be docked.

The Japanese are now in complete possession of Formosa, the occupation of the south having been effected during the past week. Liu Yung-fu, the Black Flag General, when it came to a question of actual fighting, bolted, and has not since been heard of. It is supposed that he escaped in a junk.

An extraordinary meeting of the Douglas Steamship Co., Limited, was held on the 21st inst., when a special resolution was passed altering the articles of association in such sense as to permit of the payment of a bonus. It is proposed, when the resolution has been confirmed, to pay a bonus of \$12½ per share.

The following is Japan's proposed method of expending the Chinese indemnity:—To meet outlays already incurred on account of the war \$55,000,000, increase of the army \$50,000,000, increase of the navy \$30,000,000, dockyard for the construction of ironclads \$5,000,000, contingent and incidental expenses \$150,000,000, establishing a bank of agriculture \$10,000,000, total \$300,000,000—Tls. 200,000,000.

The Shanghai Taotai has issued a proclamation informing the public of the establishment of a steamship line between Shanghai, Soochow, and Hangchow, sanctioned by Imperial edict, and that under the name of the Chiang-ché (Kiangsu and Chékiang) Steamboat Company it will be inaugurated about the 18th instant. The offices of the new company will be on the Soochow Creek, near the northern end of the North Fukien Road bridge.

From the *Courrier d'Haiphong* we learn that M. Gauthier, the French Consul at Pakhoi, has been appointed also to the new Vice-Consulate at Tonghing. M. Gauthier will have under him two Chancellors, one at Pakhoi and one at Tonghing, so that he will be able to move between the two posts. The Vice-Consulate at Tonghing has been established, we presume, under the terms of the new treaty between France and China. It is said the treaty has not been ratified, but evidently it is being acted upon.

The Lyaudet family, who were abducted by pirates at Port Wallut (Kebao) in April last, have at last been liberated. They were rescued by the Chinese authorities and on the 8th inst. Marshal Sou, the officer in charge of the frontier, handed them over at Moncay to M. Bons d'Anty, the French Consul at Lungchow, who was then on a visit to Moncay. M. Lyaudet has given to a newspaper reviewer a very graphic narrative of the hardships and privations suffered by his wife and child and himself during their six months' captivity.

Threatening complications are again arising in Korea. On the 7th inst. the Tai-won-kun, the father of the King, forced his way into the Palace, with a body of troops, and the Queen is said to have been murdered. The Queen and the Tai-won-kun were the opposing political forces of the Kingdom. Anarchy now prevails, and it is evident the unfortunate country cannot dispense with outside assistance and control. But Russia objects to Japanese control and Japan (and possibly some other powers) equally objects to Russian control. The position is a critical one.

From a private letter from Peking we (*N. C. Daily News*) learn that the spirit of progress has penetrated even that cave of conservatism. Some fifty Hanlins have started a club for the purpose of promoting the spread of general knowledge, and have already gone so far as to publish a paper called the *Wun Kuo Kung Pao*. It consists of about half-a-dozen leaves, and is published every other day at the office of the *Peking Gazette*. We learn with a great deal of pleasure that they have been in consultation with the Rev. Timothy Richard as to how they can better carry out their scheme of education; at present their paper is mainly made up of extracts from the publications of the Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge among the Chinese. It is reported that the work has the cordial approval of the Grand Secretary, Li Hung-chang.

We (*Rangoon Gazette*) understand there is no probability of the recent Franco-Chinese arrangement being ratified for the present, nor, indeed, will it be ratified at all except as a part of the general settlement of all the frontier questions in which Burmah, China, and Tonkin are now interested. What form that settlement will take has not yet been definitely arranged, but we hear from an authoritative source it will involve the abandonment by us of Kengcheng, with, of course, our present post at Mongsin, France giving up a large part or even the whole of the province Nan. From these two districts will be formed a neutral zone. The Buffer State is thus restored to the high favour from which it fell a few months since and Lord Rosebery's proposals in the latter end of 1893 are on the point of being accepted by the Powers concerned.

THE JAPANESE COMMERCIAL TREATY.

Our Northern correspondent states that LI HUNG-CHANG and Mr. HIYASHI are about to negotiate the supplementary treaty and convention referred to in Article VI. of the Treaty of Shimonoseki. We do not agree with the view that these new instruments can only deal with questions of tariff and of fiscal detail, and will concern the Inspector-General of Customs and his experts rather than the foreign trading communities. Such questions may appeal to the general reader less powerfully than the more showy parts of a treaty, but none the less do they exercise a vital influence on the revenue and trade of a country. But quite apart from their intrinsic importance we do not think they will in this case monopolize the attention of the contracting parties. The late Earl of BEACONSFIELD on a famous occasion brushed aside his critics calling on him to redeem his promises by the remark that "a good many things had happened since then," the fact being that his party from an apologetic minority had become a triumphant majority. His lordship's somewhat cynical *not* is of perennial application in the sphere of practical politics and government. The Japanese may reasonably quote it in formulating new demands under the Treaty of Shimonoseki. Many things have happened since LI and IRO parted, but two are specially germane to the occasion—the forcible re-cession of Liaotung and the anti-foreign riots and butcheries in Szechuen and Fukien. No reasonable politician would contend that half of the fruits of victory are to be given up at the beck of the three Western Powers without some *quid pro quo* and in the ghastly light of recent events no civilized power would dream of entering into reciprocal treaty obligations with China without taking more stringent measures to secure the safety of its subjects than those which already obtain.

We hold that Japan is not only in a position to demand, but is morally bound to demand a large extension of the commercial clauses of the late treaty. Other territory she cannot have; only in the direction of commercial expansion can she reasonably hope to find solace for her disappointment in lower Manchuria. Her own attitude on the question of ex-territoriality stultifies her action in this direction with the Chinese, but in insisting on an extensive opening up of the country to foreign trade and on the adequate protection of foreigners she is now happily beyond the charge of inconsistency and will be doing unmixed good to herself, to China, and to the world at large. Among the many reagents steadily corroding the Chinese polity that of monetary indebtedness to the foreigner has been conspicuously absent. Rather by feeling than by an intelligent perception of the danger, the Chinese have avoided the policy which has hurried on the ruin of Turkey and Egypt as autonomous states. With nations as with men, "who goes a-borrowing, goes a-sorrowing," unless they borrow from their own subjects. After fifty years' successful resistance of the temptation, the blockheads who trifle with government in Peking have now flown straight into the openly spread net of the fowler; ignoring the lesser danger of the money market they have deliberately placed their country in the grip of the most obdurate creditor in Europe. The evil is

done and is almost past remedy; China's sole hope of mitigating it lies in continued and progressive solvency. Unless her revenue undergoes a steady and large improvement, enabling her to meet the claims of interest and redemption, nothing can save her from internal interference and the steady filching of territory on the part of her Northern neighbour. Now China's solvency is a question of trade expansion and of the coextension of the Imperial Maritime Customs; every other phase of financial improvement is bound to fail from sheer inability to find honest men to work it. The large revenue from telegraphs fails to reach the Imperial treasury; the minor receipts from shipping and railways dwindle to zero before they get into the accounts of the Hu Pie. The honestly administered "Customs" is the one hope of Chinese finance and any policy which will ensure its extension in China proper—for we have too much of it in Hongkong for our liking—will be of invaluable aid to the Central Government.

This only tends to strengthen the Japanese demand. No honest man need seek his self interest the less because it coincides with his rival's. The opening up of the West River and the establishment of Custom Houses at the prefectural and commercial cities would alone within four years give an enormous income to Peking, though this would be a mere drop in the bucket to a similar policy over all the maritime provinces. We do not hesitate to commend this policy to Japanese statesmen because it also happens to be the chief desideratum of British traders and, because under the most favoured nation clause we should at once share the advantages which Japan would secure. Great Britain has so often been the pioneer in this direction and has so liberally shared her privileges with other nations that we need show neither diffidence nor Pecksniffian virtue in calling on other powers to show us a friendly lead now that the whirligig of time has given them the chance of initiative. In the draft Treaty of Shimonoseki Peking, Siangtan, and Wuchow, in addition to the four cities ultimately accepted, were to be opened to "trade, residence, industries, and manufactures" of Japanese subjects; and the West River, Tungting Lake, and Siang River were to be opened up in addition to the Upper Yangtze, the Woosung, and the Soochow and Hangchow canals. Count IRO abated his claims in deference to the urgent pleadings of LI re the magnitude of the indemnity and territorial cession. The present is an admirable opportunity for reviving these claims and pushing even greater demands in the way of commercial concessions. If Mr. HIYASHI could also fix down in black and white the general responsibility for foreign life on the provincial Chinese authorities, he would not only earn the gratitude of the foreign communities but prove himself an ultimate benefactor to the Chinese Government and people.

THE EVACUATION OF THE LIAOTUNG PENINSULA.

Reuter reports another stage in the negotiations for the evacuation, by the Japanese, of the Liaotung Peninsula. The three great European Powers, Russia, France, and Germany, not content with having forced Japan to retire from Manchuria, and thus snatching from her one of the chief fruits of victory, have since been worrying her to hasten the evacuation and to reduce the extra indemnity asked for from China as a condition of surrendering the territory.

To escape further badgering, and, no doubt, to be rid of further interference, the Japanese Government have agreed to evacuate the peninsula within three months and to reduce the additional war indemnity to Tls. 30,000,000. This is a very substantial reduction from the amount first asked, and China should feel grateful for the efforts put forth on her behalf by zealous if not disinterested friends. But whether the Peking Government is really grateful for the intervention of the European triumvirate is perhaps less certain than the ordinary observer might think. The mandarins have had previous experience of Russian liberality: they have not forgotten how, after having occupied Kuldja for some years on the plea—not a bad one, by the way—that the country was in a state of anarchy, they desired to retain it, and were with difficulty bought out. They may possibly entertain a suspicion that Russia's objection to Japan securing a footing on the mainland is not so much on account of the welfare of China as the fear that she may not be able to realise the project of which the construction of the great Trans-Siberian Railway is one of the means to a great and long sought end—the establishment of a port in the Pacific that will be free from ice and open to navigation throughout the winter. Already Russia and France have begun to reap the first fruits of their opportune intervention in the Chino-Japan settlement, in the floating of a big loan to China wherewith to pay the first instalment of the war indemnity to Japan. What Germany is ultimately to get in return for her good offices remains to be seen, but she has obtained a concession at Tientsin and another at Hankow, and German officers are being engaged to instruct and reorganise the Chinese army. No doubt also there will be some contracts to be picked up. It is evident that the three Powers are fairly content with the result of their little deal, or they would not have continued to exercise pressure on Japan, but would have left the date of the evacuation of the Liaotung Peninsula to the two Powers concerned to settle, and would not have bothered themselves as to the amount of the additional war indemnity. But not only have they gone into these details and bargained with Japan, but they also appear to have carried the negotiations into other directions and to have stipulated with Japan that the freedom of navigation of the Formosa Channel is to be assured. There was, of course, no harm in seeking such an assurance from Japan, but we imagine she would have been quite willing to guarantee this, which in any case she could not have refused, if it had been sought for in friendly conference. The truth is it is difficult to resist the conclusion that the action taken by the three Powers was dictated by a lively sense of favours to come. Great Britain is out of the little coercive circle, and it is satisfactory to reflect that she has no finger in this pie. United action in China is desirable certainly *vis-à-vis* the Peking Government; but the Powers are most assuredly not called upon to bolster up the Sick Man of the Far East at the expense of the only progressive and enlightened of purely Asiatic Empires. The action of the three Powers has had at least one effect; it has removed the scales from the eyes of the Japanese Government, and shown them their true friends. As for what is thought or said in Peking, that is a matter of secondary importance, for the sentiment of gratitude has never, so far, influenced the Chinese Imperial Government in its dealings with foreigners.

ANTI-FOREIGN LITERATURE.

The spirit of the notorious CHOU HAN lives, it is to be feared, in the breasts of thousands of his fellow officials in China, but it was at least hoped that the author of the infamous publication known as "Death to the Devils' Religion" had been rendered harmless. An Imperial Decree ordering that he should be temporarily cashiered and kept under surveillance, on the ground that he had "fits of insanity," was issued in 1892, and it was thought that for their own sake the Central Government would take good care to prevent any recrudescence of the flood of obscene anti-foreign literature, of which he was the principal inspirer. But, according to our Shanghai morning contemporary, CHOU HAN is once again unmuzzled, at a time, too, when relations with foreign Powers have been strained to the utmost by the long series of outrages on and massacres of missionaries. Dr. GRIFFITH JOHN, to whose exertions was due the great exposure of the official connection with the incendiary literature published in Hunan and scattered broadcast a few years ago throughout the central provinces of China, has discovered, and obtained satisfactory proof, that CHOU HAN is again engaged in the anti-foreign crusade and is as active as ever in disseminating the old slanders against the missions. His placards and tracts are being re-issued from the Hunan presses, and we shall hear presently, no doubt, that the Viceroy of the Hukwang is perfectly unconscious of the fact. Dr. JOHN, who knows better than anyone in China, perhaps, the effect this poison has on the minds of the natives, proceeding as it does from scholars and officials, writes:—"Is it a thing to be surprised at that the people have got to fear us and hate us? Is it not a wonder that riots and massacres are not more numerous? Let us not forget that CHOU HAN is not only a scholar but an official, and not only an official but an intimate friend of some of the greatest officials in the land. Some of the highest officials have been his abettors in this unholy crusade." This charge is not lightly made. Dr. JOHN makes it with the fullest sense of his responsibility and is prepared to prove it. He well knows what he is writing about, and possesses a mass of evidence which would serve doubtless to convict those higher placed than CHOU HAN. The reverend gentleman suggests that, as the only means of staying the tide of libellous publications issuing from Changsha and other cities of Hunan, that province should be at once opened to foreign trade, that CHOU HAN should be dragged into the light of day, and that the issue of this mischievous literature should be made to cease. The people as a rule, if let alone, and not roused to frenzied hatred of the missionaries by abominable stories of their habits and ways, are friendly enough to foreigners, and would, at all events, treat the missionaries fairly. They are simply roused to fury when the alleged crimes by the missionaries on their children are related in hideous detail, with all the semblance of truth, and illustrated by disgusting woodcuts.

It is not likely the people will believe foreigners in preference to their own officials. An instance of the utter rubbish the Chinese of the interior credit is given by a correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* at Fenchow-fu, in Shansi. Some mendacious state-

ments about the Japanese and foreigners in Formosa are given in a pamphlet which is sold and circulated at ten cents in the drum tower of the city and right under the noses of the officials. It sets forth that after peace had been declared between China and Japan, the island of Formosa was handed over to the latter. So far there is some fact to go on and upon this base a superstructure of astounding lies has been built up. It is stated that General LIU, the Black Flag commander, had fought more than thirty battles and won them all, killing upwards of 30,000 Japanese troops and had destroyed more than thirty vessels of war, capturing some twenty besides! As if this were not sufficient the ingenious inventor of this fiction asserts that England, France, Russia, and the United States lent assistance to Japan and that they shared in the rout. He says, describing the final engagement:—"Each country and Japan had thirty iron battleships and thirty or forty wooden ones. They were all filled with braves, 80,000 or 90,000 and more. They went to Taipeh-fu and Anping-kow and fought a battle. General LIU by the use of strategy began the contest sixty li outside of Anping-kow in the sea on the sixth of the month in the evening. Suddenly fire started up on the surface of the water. The foreigners made up their minds that they wanted to set sail and depart. But General LIU's marines under the water bound fast all the ships with iron chains so that they could not stir. On the seventh of the month the fire ceased, for the foreign ships and soldiers were all burned up. This battle was like the ancient 'Red Wall of Fire' battle. Immediately every foreign nation feared General LIU as 'one does a tiger.' This childish rubbish is unhesitatingly swallowed as gospel by the ignorant peasants, few of whom have ever seen a ship, and have no conception of what a man-of-war is like. The mischief done is incalculable, since it breeds contempt of the foreigner and teaches the native to regard China as invincible and immeasurably superior to all the countries of the outside world. No wonder that the lower officials are beyond measure rude and arrogant, and the marvel is that the peasantry are not more hostile to foreigners than is the case under normal conditions. The punishment of the assassins at Kucheng and the degradation of a disgraced mandarin in Szechuen will not alone suffice to avert a renewal of the outrages on missionaries. The people must be brought into closer contact with the foreigner and learn for themselves that he is not the monster he has been painted by Messrs. CHOU HAN and Company.

THE OPENING OF THE WEST RIVER AND TARIFF REVISION.

In the early part of 1893 a proposal was made that in the Kwangtung province lekin should be paid on foreign goods at the same time as the import duty and that the goods should thereupon be free from all further taxation. The objection to the course proposed was that it would be equivalent to an increase of the import duty without any certainty that squeezing after the goods left the Customs sheds would not go on much the same as before. In reply to this the case of the Opium Convention was adduced, absolute immunity from additional taxation having been secured by that agreement for opium, which now pays a fixed lekin due at the same time as the import duty. The idea of applying the same system to the import trade generally did not commend itself, how-

ever, to commercial circles and the proposal came to nothing. It has now been revived by the writer of a contributed article in the *China Mail*, who amplifies it, and suggests that in consideration of an increase of the import tariff foreign goods should be exempted from inland taxation and that China should agree to open up new ports and trade routes, more particularly the West River. There is much to be said in favour of the proposal, provided reliance could be placed on the honesty of the Chinese Government and its provincial officers. But the Government and its officers are not honest. It is true the Opium Agreement has worked with satisfactory results, but strong pressure has been required to keep the Chinese up to the mark. In 1890 a determined attempt was made to levy additional duty at Canton, and again at Shanghai, quite recently, another attempt has been made. These attempts were frustrated, but it is not absolutely certain that in the remote interior illegal squeezes are not levied on opium without ever being heard of by foreigners. To all outward seeming, however, the agreement is duly carried out. The reason is not far to seek: if it is not duly carried out the agreement becomes at once null and void and the Chinese Government loses the very substantial advantages it enjoys thereunder. Peking therefore in this case keeps a tight hand on the provincial authorities, not as a matter of common honesty, but because it pays.

The case of opium cannot be taken as establishing the contention that a similar agreement applied to foreign goods in general would work with equal satisfaction. A four-in-hand is more difficult to drive than a one horse chaise and there is a limit to the number of horses that even the most expert driver can manage. Attempts have been made to evade the Opium Agreement and it is certain that similar attempts would be made to evade any agreement for the exemption from squeezing of foreign trade in general if squeeze stations were still allowed to exist; and as the right of the Chinese Government to tax as it thinks fit native trade carried in native bottoms cannot be called in question an agreement for the exemption from squeezing of foreign goods would not of itself bring about the abolition of the squeeze stations. But as long as the squeeze stations existed attempts would be made to levy squeezes on foreign goods as well as native, and the number of complaints that would reach the Legations at Peking of petty squeezes would probably be so great as to overwhelm the correspondence office, to say nothing of the Minister in his negotiations with the Tsungli Yamen. It is possible to keep a more or less effective watch on one important article of trade like opium; it would be quite a different thing to keep a watch on the hundred and one other articles that go to make up the total foreign import trade.

Foreign merchants would probably not object to a reasonable revision of the tariff in return for increased trading privileges, including the opening of new ports and the privilege of running steamers on the inland waterways, provided the squeeze system were entirely swept away. So long as that system is maintained all that can be done with the Chinese Government is to bring pressure to bear upon it to grant increased trading facilities without according it the right to levy increased duties. The preliminary step to tariff revision, if there is to be tariff revision, must be the entire sweeping away of the squeeze system and the substitution in its place of some

honest machinery for collecting the dues of the Imperial and provincial Governments. The contributor to our evening contemporary writes as though lekin were a legitimate and fixed charge, whereas there is no fixity about it; it is a squeeze, farmed out in many cases, and from which the farmers try to make all they can. Goods in some cases will make detours of hundreds of miles in order to find a route where the squeezes are less onerous than on the most direct route, the stations on the different routes competing with each other for the traffic, but in such a way that the competition brings little advantage to trade, for it is simply a question between paying high squeezes or incurring the cost of carrying the goods by roundabout routes. There is a good deal that is sensible in the article under notice but likewise a certain amount of pure nonsense, as, for instance, where the writer says "The Chambers of Commerce should also propose to compensate for the loss of lekin by agreeing to the prepayment of transit duties on imports on entry at the port." That is precisely what is provided for in the treaties and what the Chambers of Commerce would like to see enforced, but the Canton Government refuses absolutely to have anything to do with the transit pass system.

We are also told that "With much unreasonable Foreign Powers continue to clamour for the opening up of China or for additional ports, which means to the treaty-tied Chinese the surrender of much-needed revenue without obtaining any concession in return such as tariff adjustment, or other equivalent, to enable China to improve her income and meet her increasing financial obligations." Poor treaty-tied Chinese! They fatuously plunge into a war with Japan, distinguish themselves by running away in every battle, have a large indemnity to pay, and then think themselves hardly used because foreigners object to the amount being raised by squeezes on foreign trade. The writer seems to think that China should be treated on the same terms as Japan, which is allowed to levy ten per cent. duties. But the fiscal administration of Japan is honest and there is no question of squeezing. "Seeing," says the writer, "that the Powers have, under the new Treaty, assented to a ten per cent. duty on cottons and woollens imported into Japan without claiming any commercial equivalent in exchange, we should say it would be worth granting a similar concession for such advantages as the opening of the West River to British trade." As a matter of fact, in the Kwangtung province cases have been verified in which goods which ought to have been entirely cleared by the payment of import duty and the transit duty, that is, seven and a half per cent. in all, have had to pay charges totalling fifteen per cent. It would certainly pay the foreign merchant very much better to pay ten per cent. at the port of entry if he could thereby secure the goods against further squeezing, but he is not likely to assent to any increase of the import duty so long as the squeeze system continues in force. The opening of the West River is a demand which may be legitimately insisted upon and enforced without reference to any question of increased import duties. Let China set her financial house in order and place the collection of her internal revenue under the direction of the Foreign Customs or some special service under foreign control and then the Powers may be found willing to entertain proposals for tariff revision.

THE LYAUDET ABDUCTION.

The history of the abduction of the LYAUDET family, their long captivity, and their final deliverance, reads quite like a chapter of romance. The LYAUDETS are not by any means the first who have made an enforced sojourn with the Chinese bandits in Tonkin. Quite a considerable number of men have had the same experience and at least one other lady. The kidnapping business was, in fact, a paying one. It was attended with risk, but once the quarry was safely carried off all the bandits had to do was to keep in hiding and wait for the ransom, which usually reached a very considerable figure. There was therefore every inducement for them to repeat the operation as frequently as opportunity offered. The present Governor-General, however, determined that this system must cease, and when the LYAUDETS were carried off he absolutely declined to entertain the idea of paying a ransom. The situation must have been a trying one for His Excellency, to think of a lady and little girl with their husband and father suffering intolerable hardships and privations, which could at once be put an end to by a payment from the public treasury, and yet to feel compelled to withhold his hand. The result, however, has shown that the policy he adopted was the correct one. The failure of the bandits to obtain any ransom beyond \$6,000 believed to have been paid to them by the Chinese mandarin to whom the captives were finally given up, the destruction of their stronghold by the French troops, the energetic measures adopted to hunt them out, the exhaustion of their resources, and above all the pressure brought to bear from Peking on the Chinese authorities on the frontier who were supposed to accord a friendly tolerance if not actual assistance to the bandits, all these circumstances together are believed to have struck a blow at piracy in Tonkin from which it is not likely to recover.

It was on the night of the 24th April that M. LYAUDET and his wife and child were awakened to find themselves surrounded by a band of armed men who without giving them time to obtain a change of clothing hastily took them to a boat and rowed off with them. Their captivity continued until the 8th October, a period of six months within a few days. During all this time they were almost continually on the march, moving from one hiding place to another, wandering amongst barren mountains, with no means of changing their clothing, and subsisting on rice and maize without salt. Supplies of provisions were sent to them, for the pirates seem to be able always to keep open a channel of communication with the towns, but not a tenth part of what was sent reached them. The efforts made to effect their release only added to their hardships for the time being, for they kept the bandits continually on the move like hunted animals. The condition of the unfortunate LYAUDETS at the end of their long sojourn beyond the pale of civilization may be imagined. M. LYAUDET, however, takes an eminently sensible view of the matter and has no word of blame for the policy adopted by his government. In his interview with a Haiphong journalist he said that no doubt the Governor-General had keenly felt not being able to ransom them, but he (M. LYAUDET) understood the imperative reasons which had made His Excellency

renounce the policy of ransom, which placed in peril every European, official and unofficial, residing in the proximity of Chinese territory. It was necessary, M. LYAUDET said, to strike a decisive blow and show the bands that the old system was finished, and if this lengthened their captivity by some weeks, he recognised the reasons of policy which made it necessary.

General Sou, the mandarin in charge of the frontier, by whose exertions the deliverance of the captives was finally effected, is said to have paid out of his own pocket a ransom of \$6,000. The question has been raised in Tonkin whether this should not be made up to him by the French Government, not under the name of refund of the ransom, but in some way which would save appearances and at the same time cover the mandarin's loss. This, as it seems to us, would have been a mistake, but it was not necessary to take the matter into serious consideration, for it became known that General Sou had received peremptory orders from Peking not to accept any payment should it be offered him. The Governor-General wished, however, to give some token of the French Government's appreciation of General Sou's services and has sent him as a present a handsome Sevres vase. The opinion formed of General Sou in Tonkin seems to be rather favourable. Possibly he is one of the better class of mandarins, for mandarins differ from each other in the degree of their avariciousness and the depth of corruption to which they will descend, but even the best of them cannot shake themselves free of the vices of the system under which they work, nor does it ever occur to them to try. If Sou worked well for the deliverance of the LYAUDETS it was no doubt because he was ordered from Peking to do so and given to understand that failure would be attended with unpleasant consequences. The French Government was pressing the Peking Government, and the latter held Sou responsible. Sou in turn would no doubt stir up the petty mandarins under him, the gentlemen who insisted on a kowtow from Madame LYAUDET for instance, and it being generally understood that the captives must be rescued and that there was no way of getting out of the business, arrangements were made with the pirates and the deliverance was duly effected.

It is quite clear, however, that there has hitherto been no serious attempt made on the Chinese side to grapple with and suppress the piracy which ravages the frontier districts, but that on the contrary the pirates have been allowed to use Chinese territory as a base from which to make their raids into Tonkin. To what extent the local authorities may have been in active collusion with them it is impossible to say, but no doubt any petty mandarin would for a consideration be conveniently engaged in another direction when a pirate gang passed through his district and would not think it necessary to give any inconvenient information afterwards. So matters would go on, until, under the pressure brought to bear by the French Minister at Peking in the LYAUDET case, it was seen that so far as that particular affair was concerned the game was up. Then the matter was settled, after the usual Chinese manner, by buying the pirates off. The Governor-General was right in not paying a ransom and the failure of the pirates to make anything out of the LYAUDETS except what they got from the officials of their own country will discourage them from trying similar ventures in the future and render the mandarins less friendly towards them.

THE FRANCO-CHINESE TREATY AND EXCLUSIVE TRADING PRIVILEGES.

It is now stated that the recent Franco-Chinese treaty is not likely to be ratified. The statement comes by way of India and is, we believe, semi-official, but presumably it applies only to that portion of the treaty referring to the Chinese cession of territory. The other clauses, providing for increased trading facilities on the Tonkin border, the appointment of consuls to new stations, and the junction of the projected French and Chinese railways will not be affected by the territorial dispute which has arisen, though there may be some reason why those clauses should be very narrowly scanned by the British Government. There can be no objection to France gaining the widest possible trading privileges, but there is an insuperable objection to her obtaining any monopoly and ruling out all competitors. England has had abundant opportunities for obtaining exclusive privileges in China and if any one has a claim to such privileges it is she. Her policy, however, has been to claim nothing for herself that was not equally obtainable by other nations, and, having adopted that policy herself, it is imperative that she should see that no other nation obtains commercial concessions in which she does not fully participate according to the spirit and the letter of the most favoured nation clause. There has been an extraordinary reticence shown with regard to the new Franco-Chinese treaty. Brief summaries of some of its provisions have appeared, but the full text has not yet been made known and it is open to doubt whether the summaries that have been published cover all the principal points. Some weeks ago the *China Gazette*, which appears to be made use of as a channel for French official *communiqués*, announced that it was about to publish the text of the treaty, but in a subsequent issue stated it was compelled to defer doing so, a circumstance from which the inference may be drawn that the treaty contains provisions which it was deemed undesirable from the French point of view to have brought into prominence before the ratification for fear of exciting the opposition of other powers. These provisions could hardly refer to the cession of territory, because so far as that was concerned the contents of the agreement were already known.

In the Patenôtre treaty of 1885 an attempt was made to secure for French industry the exclusive privilege of constructing any railways that might in future be decided upon in the Celestial Empire. The attempt at that time failed, but if we are to believe a French contemporary something of the kind has been secured in the new treaty. The *Indépendance Tonkinoise*, after quoting a statement from the *Temps* to the effect that the Compagnie Elves-Lille was taking steps to submit to the Chinese Government a project for the construction of a railway from Namquan to Lungchow, goes on to say:—"The Convention recently signed at Peking, which opens to the civilising action of Europe the rich provinces of the Celestial Empire, contains in article V. an important provision giving to French engineers a right of priority over those of other nationalities as regards the working of mines and the construction of railways." If any such agreement has been made it is null and void *ab initio*, for China cannot concede privileges to any power without those privileges being equally applicable to Great Britain. This would follow from the most favoured nation clause of the Tientsin treaty,

which is reinforced by the seventeenth article of the Burmah Convention of the 1st March, 1894, which reads:—"It is agreed that subjects of the two Powers shall each within the territories of the other enjoy all the privileges, immunities, and advantages that may have been, or may hereafter be, accorded to the subjects of any other nation." Consequently, if the right to work mines in Yunnan is accorded to French citizens it must equally be accorded to the subjects of Great Britain, and, equally, if China decides to invite foreign engineers to assist in the construction of her railways, British subjects will have as good a right to submit their tenders as those of France. There are, however, strong objections to any agreement giving even a nominal advantage to any one nation and if there is really anything of the kind in the new Franco-Chinese treaty it will be the duty of Great Britain to intimate to China that she cannot be allowed to accord such advantage. British merchants and manufacturers do not ask for any wet-nursing from their Government, but they do ask and have a right to expect that it will secure for them a fair field and not allow other nations to step in and close either the China or any other market against them. Some confidence may be entertained that Lord SALISBURY will not fail to protect British interests in matters of that kind.

THE HONGKONG PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The announcement made by H.E. the Governor at the meeting held in connection with the Hongkong Public Library on Monday, that the Government will be prepared to assist that young and useful institution financially, will have been received with widespread satisfaction. Probably financial assistance will not long be required, for when the Library has once been fairly set on its feet it will prove self-supporting, especially if it be provided with a home rent free, as it might be if it were amalgamated with the City Hall Library. In the meantime it must be regarded as a very fitting object for financial assistance from the Government. When it has passed its infancy and become a well-established and flourishing institution of proved utility the Government might perhaps with advantage go a step further and by legislation transfer to it the control of the City Hall and Morrison Libraries. Whatever the technical reading of the terms upon which the books composing those libraries are held by the Committee of the City Hall there can be no doubt whatever that the manner in which the books are at present guarded from use by the public would be extremely repugnant to the wishes of those responsible for the original collection were they still alive to give expression to them. The manner in which the City Hall Library is conducted is opposed to all reason and common sense and the Government would have the same justification for stepping in and putting matters on a better basis that the Charity Commissioners in England have for dealing with charitable bequests that have ceased to serve a useful purpose under the original terms on which they are held.

According to a letter from Dr. CANTLIE read at Monday's meeting the unofficial members of Council opposed the scheme of the Public Library "on the ground that there were no readers outside the Hongkong Club to justify a library." If that correctly represents the position taken up the unofficial members it is only another instance of that curious want of sympathy

between them and the public that has during the last twelve months been so often remarked. Now that the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD has returned to the colony the bonds between the unofficial members and those whom they are supposed to represent may be again drawn closer, for Mr. WHITEHEAD seems to have a better appreciation of public requirements and public feeling than some of his fellow members of Council, and we noted with pleasure that he attended the Public Library meeting on Monday and gave the scheme his support. If he is able to carry his colleagues with him so much the better; if not, it is to be hoped that the Government will not hesitate to use the official phalanx in order to give to the Public Library whatever support may be required. It is of course a painful position when the public have to turn from their nominal representatives and look to the official hierarchy for the protection of their interests, but if the unofficial members choose to throw the public over the public must accept with gratitude what it can get from the Government without the assistance or in spite of the opposition of the unofficial members. For the support he is giving to the Library Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON merits the thanks of the public and we trust His Excellency will have the satisfaction of seeing it established on a sound and permanent basis before he leaves the colony.

THE JAPANESE ATTACK ON SOUTH FORMOSA.

BOMBARDMENT OF TAKOW.

FLIGHT OF LIU.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAMS TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]

AMOY, 18th October, 9.56 a.m.

Takow was bombarded on the 15th. The Japanese are in complete possession. The native town was sacked.

Anping has not been attacked yet.

Panic prevails in Tainanfoo.

ANPING via AMOY, 21st October.

Liu has escaped.

The troops will surrender.

Anping will probably be occupied to-day without resistance.

AMOY, 21st October, 9.20 p.m.

General Liu escaped by a junk on the 19th inst. He had a number of followers with him.

The rebel soldiers have surrendered.

The Japanese fleet is now off Anping.

AMOY, 22nd October.

Anping was occupied by the Japanese yesterday. All quiet.

LATEST DETAILS.

HONGKONG, 18th October.

As already reported, the Japanese men-of-war began to leave Kelung on the 4th inst. and assembled at the Pescadores. Early on the morning of the 10th one division of transports left for Putaitai, on the coast near Kagee, and the same afternoon the other division left for a point about twenty miles south of Takow. The sea was quite smooth and the troops of the south division effected their landing without difficulty on the 12th. That same afternoon severe fighting took place with the rebels, but since then this branch of the army has had only skirmishes. One part of the south division landed at Tungkow, and, having forded the big stream there, was marching towards Feungshan and Chigo.

Takow was bombarded by the fleet early on the morning of the 15th. By eight o'clock the firing had ceased, it is believed because the forts had fallen. Troops will be landed there, and unless Liu has made timely surrender before this it was expected he would have a most unpleasant experience yesterday or to-day.

[FROM OUR ANPING CORRESPONDENT.]

ANPING, 13th October.

H.M.S. *Pique* returned from the Pescadores on Friday, the 11th, and Mr. Hurst, H.B.M. Consul, immediately on landing, notified the community that the Japanese fleet would arrive within twenty-four hours and that unless Liu surrendered the forts would be bombarded at noon on Saturday. It appears that the Commander-in-Chief had planned to fight on Friday, but upon the representation of Mr. Hurst, in order to afford the foreign community time to leave, he courteously agreed to postpone operations for a day. At 4 a.m. on Saturday nearly every member of the community assembled on board the launch *Anping*, which steamed cautiously over the bar, without attracting the attention of the fort, and stood off and on in the roadstead until daylight. At 7.30 a.m. the launch was taken alongside the *Pique* and the residents were received by the officers, whose kindness and hospitality will not be easily forgotten. The *Thales* arrived from Amoy, and a portion of the community were drafted to her, in order to relieve the *Pique* of some of the strain put upon her officers by the sudden invasion of the refugees. Captain Bigge was unfortunately unable through sickness to take any part in the proceedings. At 10 a.m. a deputy from Liu Yung-fu boarded the *Pique* to ask Mr. Hurst, H.B.M. Consul, and Mr. Bain, Consul for the Netherlands, to accompany him, or the Prefect, on board the *Yoshino*, to arrange terms of surrender with the Commander-in-Chief. The Consuls agreed to assist Liu, who was strongly urged to come off himself and to act promptly, since the fleet were expected every moment. The courage of Liu appears to have failed him at the last moment and after much negotiation a third official came off to the *Pique* with a despatch for the Japanese. The Consuls, knowing that the Commander-in-Chief would only treat with Liu himself, promptly declined to take any further action in the matter. At 2 p.m. the *Yoshino*, *Naniwa*, and *Yomato* arrived, followed by the *Akitsu-shima*, and all came into position. H.M.S. *Pique*, *Peacock*, and the Douglas steamer *Thales* moved to the south of the forts. At 3 p.m. a white flag was seen flying from the large fort and the Japanese appeared to abandon the idea of attacking. In the evening the launch *Anping* conveyed the official above referred to on board the *Yoshino*, and he returned to the *Pique* with an ultimatum for Liu to the effect that if he did not himself go on board the flagship at 10 a.m. on the following day, Sunday, negotiations would be considered at an end. This demand was sent on shore at once. On Sunday the Japanese took no decisive action and at 3.30 p.m. the flag of truce at the fort was hauled down, and it is supposed that Liu, after all, intends to oppose the landing.

H.M.S. *Pique*, *Peacock*, and *Tweed* are at anchor in the roadstead, and as far as can be ascertained all is quiet on shore. The Japanese land forces are supposed to be within a short distance of Tainanfoo. Large forces are known to have been landed at Portachui, north of Anping, and at Tangkhang, to the southward of Takow.

ANPING, 17th October.

Takow was bombarded on Tuesday, the 15th inst. Operations commenced at 7 a.m. and the Japanese fleet kept up a continual fire for several hours. The forts made a fairly good stand for a time, but the shooting was bad, and the garrison, led by the Commandant, son of Liu Yung-fu, abandoned the position at an early stage, leaving the naval brigade to land without opposition.

H.M.S. *Tweed*, *Peacock*, and H.I.G.M.S. *Arcona* were anchored outside with the foreign community on board, who landed again in the evening.

Many of the foreign houses and godowns suffered considerably from the shells, but very few lives appear to have been lost.

On Wednesday, the 16th, the fort at Anping opened fire on the transport *Saikio Maru*, which while cruising in the roadstead came within range of the shore guns. Five shots were fired in rapid succession, and one seemed to pass over the ship close to the funnel. On the whole the shooting was excellent, but the transport moved out and was soon out of reach. The *Thales*,

which had just arrived from Amoy, had to shift to the south and took up a position near the *Pique*. The *Peacock* and *Arcona* returned from Takow, with news that the Japanese fleet would move up at once to attack this place.

The situation at Takow is very serious, owing to the wanton destruction of all native property by the Japanese soldiers, who are also charged with having looted some of the foreign houses. The town of Kiao is deserted, and great fears are entertained that unless restrained the troops will follow up their excesses when they come to occupy Anping. There is a panic in Tainanfoo and hundreds are crowding into Anping to escape to the mainland. The steamers *Thales* and *Dante* take about a thousand passengers to Amoy. Liu remains in the city and, it is said, will oppose the landing in person.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT WITH THE JAPANESE ARMY.]

TAKOW, 16th October.

To describe the capture of Takow I will anticipate the arrival of the Japanese and describe the state of affairs when the Chinese were in possession.

During the early days of the republic about 5,000 Chinese soldiers were stationed at Takow, most of them being Liu Yung-fu's redoubtable Black Flags under the command of his adopted son, but as the Japanese were slowly and surely approaching southward General Liu seems to have felt that it would be impossible to withstand an attack made by them on Takow, for we find him gradually withdrawing his troops, and on the arrival of the Japanese fleet only about 500 Chinese soldiers were left to man the forts. It is said that a telegram was sent by General Liu at Anping to his son, ordering him to hoist the white flag, not apparently with the idea of treating with the Japanese, but as a *ruse de guerre* to cover his men's retreat. On the 14th inst. it is stated that another telegram came from the same source intimating to the Commandant at Takow to haul down the white flag and when the Japanese were within range to fire a few shots and then retreat to reinforce the main body of troops at Tainan and Anping.

The residents at Takow speak highly of the discipline preserved among the Chinese troops by General Liu, for in no instance has there been any cause of complaint. However, for the last three months the soldiers have only been paid with General Liu's paper notes, which became absolutely worthless some three weeks ago, thus causing so much dissatisfaction amongst the Chinese soldiers as to amount to a mutiny.

On the 14th inst. three Japanese men-of-war arrived off the port, and H.M.S. *Tweed*, Lieut. Ward commanding, conveyed the British residents to a safe position outside, as it was expected that the attack would be made at once. However, on Lieut.-Commander Ward's boarding the Japanese flagship (*Yoshino*) he was informed that no bombardment would take place that day, but the Admiral requested that all foreign residents would leave Takow by seven o'clock the next morning. Accordingly H.M.S. *Tweed* embarked all the foreign residents and accompanied by the British tugs *Sui-tai-wan* and *Tukow*, proceeded to a safe position to the northward of Apes' Hill.

At 7 a.m., true to time, the Japanese opened fire on the Takow forts at a range of, I should say, 6,000 yards. For the first half hour the forts responded, but after this their guns were silent, and it was evident that Liu's soldiers were carrying out their preconcerted plans—evacuating the forts and retreating inland. In round numbers, I should say, the forts fired twenty-four rounds, the best shot being from the 8-inch B. L. Armstrong guns in Apes' Hill fort, which struck the water about 500 yards from the *Naniwa Kan*. At 2 p.m. the Japanese fleet, consisting of seven ships, including the *Tsi-yuen*, the Armstrong cruiser captured from the Chinese at Port Arthur, closed the beach to the southward of Saracen's Head, and at 2.15 p.m. twenty-five boats "manned and armed" were seen proceeding in a parallel line to the beach, steering for that portion immediately under Saracen's Head fort. At 2.30 the foremost boat's bows touched the beach and five minutes later the Japanese sailors were in possession of the fort, without meeting any resistance whatever, the Japanese ensign

being hoisted at the flagstaff. But now a more difficult task had to be performed, namely, the taking of Apes' Hill fort, and with any other nation than the Chinese this would indeed have been a difficulty worthy to rank with one of the twelve labours allotted to Hercules, but here, as before, there was no resistance, and the chrysanthemum flag was floating proudly from the fort flagstaff at 4 p.m. Takow was then in full possession of the Japanese, the loss of life amounting to four men on the Chinese side, two being killed in Ki-ow village and two in Apes' Hill fort. It is hardly necessary to state that the casualties on the Japanese side were nil. The damage done to foreign property by the bombardment is infinitesimal, and a British naval officer who has seen more than one bombardment, and whose opinion must carry some weight, stated that he was surprised to see such little destruction to the houses on shore. I may say that he further stated that he thought it arose from the Japanese Admiral's consideration in bombarding on such a bearing that the forts and houses were not in line. As soon as the Japanese flag was hoisted over Apes' Hill fort the Japanese Admiral courteously informed Lieut.-Commander Ward that he was at liberty to proceed once more into the inner harbour and land the foreign residents, which he accordingly did. H.M.S. *Tweed* is now moored in the inner harbour and the foreign residents once more installed in their houses and apparently very glad to exchange the Black Flag régime for the Japanese. It may be of interest to state the names of the Japanese warships actually engaged in the bombardment. I accordingly append a list:—*Yoshino*, bearing the flag of Admiral Arichi, *Naniwa*, *Akitsu-shima*, *Tsi-yuen*, *Yaeyama*, *Hei-yei*, and two transports, one of which (*Saikio Maru*) was kindly placed at the disposal of the foreign residents. From information I have received I may state that the forts were very little injured, notwithstanding that the Japanese fleet kept up a very heavy fire for seven hours. The very long range adopted by the Japanese will probably account for this. The second division of the Imperial Japanese army is now about three miles inland of Takow, under the command of Lieut.-General Baron Nogi and I think that Anping will be shortly occupied by the Japanese troops.

My right arm is unfortunately at the present moment placed *hors de combat*, thus precluding my writing as full an account of the operations as I should wish, but I trust that it will soon be in good working order and that I shall be then able to send further details.

JAMES W. DAVIDSON.

THE KUCHENG COMMISSION.

PROGRESS OF THE INQUIRY.

MORE EXECUTIONS.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAMS TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]

FOOCHOW, 18th October, 10.10 p.m.

The presence of the men-of-war at Foochow has quietened the Kucheng people.

The Taotai is exerting himself to arrest all the criminals and has forbidden the Vegetarians to join the Home Guards.

The Court has released thirteen innocent prisoners.

The work is now proceeding rapidly.

The Viceroy is frightened and concedes everything asked for.

The Commission expects to return here in a fortnight.

FOOCHOW, 20th October, 12.10 p.m.

Fourteen of the Hwasang murderers are to be executed to-morrow at Kucheng.

Four of the leaders are to be brought down to Foochow on Wednesday to be executed here.

FOOCHOW, 21st October, 4.40 p.m.

Fourteen of the Hwasang murderers were executed at Kucheng this morning.

The Commissioners, the Prefect, the local Magistrate, and a great crowd witnessed the execution.

Ming Chiang-chek, Miss Hartford's assailant, was the first man beheaded.

Perfect order prevails.

THE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION.

Foochow, 12th October.

Nothing could be more unsatisfactory than the news up to the 9th instant from Kucheng. There is not one word about any further executions, and as to what is written about any progress, or prospect of progress, one can read between the lines, as plainly as if actually in words, a message from the Viceroy to the Taotai, "The foreigners may stay at Kucheng just as long as they please, but they will get no further satisfaction from me." It is now a fortnight since the sudden collapse took place. Of course all this time the Consuls have been assured that the country is being scoured in the hope of making arrests, but none have been made or are now likely to be made, it would seem. Urged by the Consuls to renew their efforts, a hundred soldiers were sent as far as Nga-yong, nine miles distant from Kucheng city, where a body of troops is stationed, and on their arrival they told the people that they had only been sent there to deceive the Consuls and foreigners and did not mean to arrest anyone. On the afternoon of the 8th instant the Taotai called on the Consuls and laid his proposals before the Commission for the further conduct of the investigation. He stated that he intended to offer rewards for the capture of all those who went to Whasang and that he would send proclamations to all the different *Lieng Kak* to this effect. This all referred to a future. Why was this not done directly it was seen that no more arrests were being made? For the simple reason that it was ordered a fortnight ago that no more arrests should be made. And now, as to their undertaking to offer rewards for arrests after the interval, and issue proclamations to the different *Lieng Kak*, is there any faith to be placed in them? Of course not. And then, over and above all these proffered undertakings, we understand that the Taotai mildly suggests that the foreign Commissioners should return to Foochow, and, as captures are made, and the men tried by the local officials, they should come up from time to time and try them jointly! Our news does not inform us of the reception of these overtures by the Commission; perhaps it was thought unnecessary. We only know, writing on Friday night, that H.B.M. Consul is expected in Foochow tomorrow morning.—*Echo*.

DISASTROUS EXPLOSION ON
A CHINESE TROOPER.

FEW SURVIVORS.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAMS TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]
SHANGHAI, 17th October, 9.45 p.m.

The China Merchants Company have received a telegram stating that an explosion has occurred on their steamer *Kungpai* and that the fore part of the vessel was blown out. Many persons were wounded.

No details have yet been received.

[The *Kungpai* was probably engaged in carrying troops from the North. In the *N. C. Daily News* of the 9th inst. the following paragraph appeared:—The Chinese troops at Kaichow, to the number of 5,000, are being taken back to Tongku by the *Kungpai*.]

SHANGHAI, 18th October, 3.53 p.m.

Further news with reference to the *Kungpai* states that the Third Engineer, some Chinese firemen and soldiers, and one foreign passenger were saved.

The steamer *Irene* has been despatched to Kinkow to render assistance.

Some good news comes from the Takashima Colliery, says the *Nagasaki Observer*. The strata of coal which are being worked at present are 10, 8, and 5 feet thick, respectively. They have been found to extend for over 1,200 yards, where a slight "fault" is met with. On the other side of this the seams have been again found extending for an unknown distance. The *Shimpo* states that grave fears have recently been felt that the mine was becoming exhausted, but now congratulates the owners on the supply they have to draw on, which it says will last for "many tens of years to come."

SUPREME COURT.

18th October.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE SIR FIELDING CLARKE (CHIEF JUSTICE).

DISCHARGED BY PROCLAMATION.

The Attorney-General (Hon. W. M. Goodman) said that a charge of attempted bribery had been committed by the Magistrate, but he did not feel justified, after carefully reading the evidence, in sending the case before the jury. He therefore asked that the prisoners, Sin Qua Sing, Chan Fung, and Yeung Kun, be discharged by proclamation. The application was acceded to.

UNLAWFULLY WOUNDING.

Chung Hoi Mun, formerly interpreter on the *Empress of Japan*, was charged with unlawfully and maliciously wounding a prostitute named Wong Tsoi, in Stanley Street, on 26th September, with intent to do her grievous bodily harm.

The Attorney-General (Hon. W. M. Goodman) prosecuted on behalf of the Crown.

The prisoner pleaded not guilty. He said, "I was insensible."

The following gentlemen composed the jury—Messrs. E. F. Birchall, L. M. H. Ozorio, F. Lammert, E. J. da S. Loureiro, R. Aitken, C. P. Adamson, and A. F. Willson.

Mr. J. B. F. Lemm's name was called as a juror, but he did not attend.

His Lordship—Let a summons issue for Mr. Lemm, and the rest of the gentlemen in waiting can go.

During the hearing of the case his Lordship said a summons need not be issued, as a medical certificate, the delivery of which had been declared, had been handed in.

The Attorney-General explained the facts of the case, and said that on the night of the 26th September the prisoner visited the woman, and in the early part of the morning she was awakened by feeling a sharp cut on the neck. She saw the prisoner hacking her face with a razor; and on raising an alarm a watchman came in and took the razor from the accused, who had swallowed a quantity of opium. Several wounds were inflicted, the most serious one extending from the mouth to the jaw. If the razor had gone one inch lower down one of the main arteries would have been severed, and the result would probably have been fatal. The motive for the attack was doubtless to be found in the refusal of the woman to leave the brothel and live with the prisoner in accordance with his request.

Witnesses were then called who supported this statement.

Dr. Atkinson said that if the man had not received immediate medical attention he would probably have died. A large quantity of opium taken by a person would not have the immediate effect of lessening his mental faculties. The first symptom of opium poisoning was a feeling of exhilaration, the pulse at first quickens, the primary stage of excitement is very short after a poisonous dose, and narcotism soon sets in.

The jury returned a unanimous verdict of guilty of unlawfully wounding without intent to do grievous bodily harm, and the prisoner was sent to gaol for three years with hard labour.

16th October.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FIELDING CLARKE (CHIEF JUSTICE).

TSO SIK CHAN v. TSOI KWAI.

Plaintiff claimed for the return of \$1,000 in respect of a deposit on a sale of property and interest thereon. Mr. Francis, Q.C., appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Sharp for the defendant.

Mr. Francis said that counsel for the defence was prepared to consent for judgment for \$1,161.50 and costs.

His Lordship pointed out that a special agreement which had been filed differed from this arrangement.

Mr. Francis said the parties withdrew the agreement.

His Lordship gave judgment in accordance with the terms consented to.

IN THE MATTER OF THE GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

Mr. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Ellis, of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office), petitioned for an order to confirm the reduction of the capital of the Company as consented to at extraordinary meetings of the shareholders. There was no objection raised, and his Lordship made the order asked for subject to a perusal of the articles of association.

15th October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

A CURIOUS POINT IN BANKRUPTCY LAW.

Lo Sui Tang sued Chat Yat Shun for \$700, the value of a cargo of salt the property of the plaintiff. Mr. Mounsey appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Gedge represented the defendant.

The plaintiff was giving his evidence when it transpired that a receiving order (absolute) had been made against the estate of the defendant.

His Lordship—Then your man is practically *non est*, Mr. Gedge.

Mr. Gedge—Yes, my Lord; but if I had not appeared here Mr. Mounsey would have put his client in the box, proved his claim, and got the salt.

His Lordship—Well, where is the Official Receiver? I want to see what he has to say, as he is the only person who can defend this action.

Mr. Mounsey—This is simply a question of ownership, my Lord. No order has been made for stay of these proceedings, and I submit that such an order cannot be made now.

Mr. Gedge—As a matter of fact a receiving order does stay all proceedings.

His Lordship—Well, that is what I want to know all about. The defendant is nobody: he is practically dead in the eye of the law.

Mr. Mounsey—Yes, my Lord, that would be the case if we were suing the defendant for an ordinary debt, and the Official Receiver would then be the proper authority to join as defendant; but this is a question as to whom this property belongs to.

His Lordship—If Mr. Seth, the Official Receiver, does not claim the property, I do not see how you can claim, Mr. Gedge.

Mr. Mounsey—The summons in this case was taken out before the bankruptcy proceedings commenced.

His Lordship—Surely you must agree with me that the whole of this property goes into the hands of the Official Receiver?

Mr. Mounsey—We have a claim against the Official Receiver. He attached and received this property and sold it without the authority of the plaintiff.

His Lordship—I am not going into that question; it is not before me to-day. Mr. Gedge, I do not see how you can have anything to do with the case.

Mr. Gedge—I am representing Chat Yat Shun.

His Lordship—But he is nobody now.

Mr. Seth at this point came into Court.

His Lordship—Mr. Seth, here is a case in which a plaintiff is claiming against a bankrupt. You are the Official Receiver; do you know anything about it? Mr. Gedge appears for the bankrupt and claims the property. You had better make an application for it. If you do not want it the plaintiff will get it.

Mr. Seth—The salt has been sold.

His Lordship—You have sold the salt under the proceedings. Who is the defendant? He is dead—dead in the eye of law.

Mr. Seth—I have got possession of the proceeds of the sale now.

His Lordship—You had better settle the matter between you. It is perfectly clear that Mr. Gedge is appearing for nobody.

Mr. Gedge—If Mr. Mounsey proves his claim, the salt is not in the hands of my client, but in the hands of the Official Receiver.

His Lordship—That is for Mr. Mounsey to consider.

Mr. Gedge—I think Mr. Seth had better allow me to appear for him.

His Lordship—Oh no, I cannot allow such an arrangement to be made in Court. You can come to any arrangement you like between yourselves, but you cannot appear for a person who is not a party to the suit.

Mr. Seth—I have no authority to employ a solicitor without an order of the Court.

His Lordship—I do not see how I can help you, Mr. Gedge. If plaintiff gets judgment I do not see how it affects you now.

Mr. Gedge—Quite so; I have nothing to do with the property.

His Lordship—I think it is a futile claim.

Plaintiff then spoke to purchasing the salt, and at the conclusion of his examination

His Lordship said—It will be the most convenient course to make a note in my book that as I find the man was adjudicated a bankrupt I refuse to allow Mr. Gedge to cross-examine as he has had no instructions from the Official Receiver.

Mr. Gedge—If the Court now decides that this salt belongs to the plaintiff, it will be given up to him—or rather the proceeds of it. This is not just to the large body of creditors; it is not just to my client or the creditors. I can prove by evidence now and by cross-examining this witness that plaintiff did not pay for the salt at all.

His Lordship—I am quite willing to listen to any application the Official Receiver might make, but I cannot listen to you because you are nothing. It is a curious position altogether.

Mr. Mounsey—We can show that the plaintiff did pay for the salt.

His Lordship—Well, the Official Receiver makes no application. He knows all about the case, and if he makes an application to me I will take notice of it.

Mr. Gedge—I have witnesses to call if he chooses to be represented.

His Lordship—He cannot be represented today; that is perfectly clear. It is not for me to say what application should be made; that is obvious.

Mr. Seth, who had gone out of Court, now returned, and his Lordship asked—Have you any application to make about this case? You are the only person who has a claim to the property. I cannot listen to Mr. Gedge.

Mr. Seth—I ask your Lordship to stay execution in this case.

His Lordship—I haven't got as far as the execution yet. What you want is an adjournment, isn't it?

Mr. Seth—Yes, I ask your Lordship to adjourn the case in order that I may call a meeting of creditors.

Mr. Mounsey—I object to an adjournment.

His Lordship—Oh, yes, of course, I know, and I am extremely sorry for you. But I must adjourn the case until Tuesday. The creditors will have to pay the costs of the adjournment. I cannot do it in any other way, as Mr. Mounsey has been put off so long, and it is perfectly clear that Mr. Gedge has no *locus standi*.

Mr. Seth—I do not know whether I can bind the creditors to pay the costs because I am acting without their authority.

Mr. Mounsey—The witness who is in the box now will be taken to the gaol as soon as he has given his evidence, as there is a warrant against him.

His Lordship—They're a nice lot all round. (Laughter).

Mr. Seth—I do not feel justified in binding myself to pay the costs.

His Lordship—The case must go on then. I draw your attention, Mr. Official Receiver, to the fact that the bankrupt has sufficient funds of his own to pay a solicitor with; that is a thing to remember in the course of the bankruptcy.

The evidence was then proceeded with and judgment was given for plaintiff.

16th October.

WILSON v. BUTTERFIELD AND SWIRE.

This was an action brought by Mr. Harry Wilson, master of the British barque, *Stanfield*, against Messrs. Butterfield and Swire to recover \$755.33, balance due on a cargo of timber delivered to defendants under a charter party.

Mr. Hastings appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master's office) represented the defendants.

Mr. Hastings said the charter party was admitted by the defendants. It was dated 4th May, 1895, and was between Butterfield and Swire, the charterers, on the one part, and Captain Harry Wilson of the other part. The *Stanfield* was chartered for two separate trips from Sandakan to Hongkong for the purpose of carrying cargoes of timber. The only provision in the charter party that the Court would be concerned with was the one relating to the payment of freight. By that provision the defendants agreed to pay freight on the vessel as follows:—"22½ cents of the Mexican dollar for each and every cubic foot of timber delivered to the defendants at Hongkong." For each and every cubic foot delivered were the words on which the case turned. One of the trips had already been made. The timber on arrival here was measured by three persons, one on behalf of the plaintiff, one on behalf of the defendants, and one on behalf of the Godown Company at Kowloon.

His Lordship—The question is narrowed down to a very fine point, isn't it? It is a question of local custom.

Mr. Hastings said the plaintiff was not paid according to his measurement, but according to an entirely different one, and he wrote to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire on September 14th asking to be paid according to his measurement. Messrs. Butterfield and Swire replied that they were "willing to pay according to the cubical measurement made in the customary manner in this port." Those letters contained the pith of the dispute in this case—whether freight should be paid according to the ordinary cubical measurement or by some other measurement stated by the defendants to be the Hongkong customary measurement. The result of the calculation made by the defendants by their own method was that the cargo contained 18,075 cubic feet. According to the plaintiff's specification the total carried was 21,432 cubic feet—a difference of about 3,300 cubic feet, which meant a loss to the plaintiff of over \$700. The cargo consisted of 795 round logs, a number of square logs, and a number of planks; but there was no dispute about the measurement of the square logs and planks, and the only dispute was as to the measurement of the round logs. The method of ascertaining the cubical contents of a solid object is by multiplying the length, breadth, and depth; but there was a complication in the case because the logs were round. The proper way of ascertaining the cubical contents of round logs is by first ascertaining the girth at the middle, then ascertaining the superficial area at the section and multiplying it by the length, and another way was to take the mean girth by measuring the girth at both ends and in the middle. The correct results were obtained by taking the girth at the middle of the logs. The defendants had set up a method of finding the cubical contents of the logs which they referred to as the "Hongkong trade cubical measurement." The effect of the trade measurement was that the whole cubical contents were not ascertained, as slabs at the edges of the logs were cut off and a square formed in the centre; therefore when they made use of the trade measure they merely measured the area of a log cut square out of the log. That might be a very fair and good rule as between a vendor and a purchaser of timber because the sides were not of so much value as the centre, and therefore this rule was used simply for the purpose of calculating the valuable contents of the timber. But as between a carrier and the owner of the timber such a rule was not at all fair and reasonable, because the carrier had to carry the side pieces as well as the centre pieces. Then again such a rule was certainly not admissible in this case as it was in direct contradiction to the words of the charter party, which were very plain—the plaintiff was to be paid "for each and every cubic foot of timber delivered." Those words would not permit of the introduction of such a rule as the defendants wished to set up in this case. The question was, what is the cubic foot mentioned in the charter party? Counsel submitted that the only way of measuring a cubic foot was by the standard measures of length laid down by the Government of the colony, and not by any other method adopted by the defendants.

The plaintiff's evidence, taken on commission, was then read. He spoke of entering into the charter party, and to bringing the first load of timber to the defendants at Kowloon godowns on the 2nd September. The specification of the contents he drew up differed very little from that made by the Kowloon Godown Company. The defendant's specification differed considerably, and he had received only \$4,076.87, while he calculated the total freight amounted to \$4,822.20.

Inspector Stanton produced the standard measures of the colony, and Chinese assistants at Kowloon spoke to the accuracy of the company's specification.

Mr. Arthur Turner, architect and surveyor, said the proper way of finding the cubical contents of a round log was to take the girth in the middle, find the superficial area at the section, and multiply that by the length. If the logs tapered it was a fair way to measure the girth at the middle or to take the mean. It was the best way to take the diameter of the circle and square it, and multiply that by 7854, and then multiply by the length. The cubical contents of the log were then ascertained. He had checked the contents of the logs contained in the specification, and a few of them only were wrong in a slight degree. The total difference was about 35 feet. By the rule he had mentioned the whole of the timber in the log is measured. The defendants' rule for measuring timber was different, and the result of that rule was that in buying round timber it had to be cut up in a square, and so there was some waste. By the trade measurement about 23 per cent. of the timber was lost, and "each and every cubic foot in the log" was not measured. That was a fair rule between vendor and purchaser, because it allowed for loss in squaring the log. Of course a ship could earn much more in freight by carrying square logs than she could by carrying round logs. If round logs were sold the correct area would have to be taken.

Cross-examined by Mr. Master—Witness had had no experience in the measurement of timber for freight. There was a universal custom in measuring timber for sale and purchase, and it was the trade measurement.

This was the case for the plaintiff, as Mr. Hastings said it was necessary for him only to call evidence as to the proper method of measuring a cubic foot.

Mr. Master, for the defence, said the words "each and every cubic foot" had a special significance to the trade. It was the same as "per cubic foot," and did not prevent the timber from being measured according to trade custom; but the timber could not be measured by any formula the plaintiff chose to adopt at the last moment in order to get more freight; the timber must be measured only according to well known usage. The plaintiff had been used to carrying timber and therefore he must have known what the trade custom in Hongkong was; if he did not know he ought to have made himself acquainted with it. If Mr. Turner's formula were adopted too much time would be taken up in measuring trade logs, and the measurement adopted by the defendants was the one adopted by everybody connected with timber. Counsel then quoted several cases in support of his argument and called his witnesses.

Mr. H. M. Brown, clerk in the employ of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, said he had been managing the timber department for more than four years. Their timber steamer *Memnon* arrived from Borneo about every three weeks, and the Godown Company at Kowloon usually discharged her. Freight was charged on the figures made out by the Godown Company. He remembered the *Altair* coming with timber from Sandakan in January, 1894, and two-fifths of the cargo was round logs. The cubic contents were calculated according to the rule in Table 2 of Hoppus, and freight was paid on that calculation.

Cross-examined—The freight was paid in accordance with the bills of lading, and was subject to re-measurement in Hongkong. There was no clause in the *Memnon* bills of lading about the Hongkong trade custom as far as he knew.

Mr. Newton, employed at the Kowloon Godown Company, said the *Stanfield* cargo was

measured in exactly the same way as other cargoes of timber were measured.

Mr. E. Osborne, Secretary of the Godown Company, Mr. Danby, and other witnesses were called, who said that it was the custom in Hongkong to measure timber according to Table 2 of Hoppus.

His Lordship—Subject to anything that Mr. Hastings will say I am prepared to hold that there is a trade custom here, but whether that custom is applicable in this case is what you have to deal with.

Mr. Hastings—I am with you there, my Lord.

His Lordship—I mean that there is a custom in Hongkong, and here you have a charter party without any reference to the trade measurement, and the question is, will that excuse the custom?

Mr. Master again addressed his Lordship, and said that, assuming there was a custom, this charter party must be read as if the custom were incorporated. There was nothing repugnant to the words of the charter party if his Lordship agreed with the custom being incorporated, and he submitted that the words could be read "each and every cubic foot of timber computed according to customary method or customary measurement." He submitted that his Lordship was bound to so read the charter party unless it was thought that the added words were repugnant to it. It was to be presumed that Messrs. Butterfield and Swire and Captain Wilson entered into the charter party intending to incorporate the ordinary method of measurement in it. There was nothing to include that measurement, and therefore counsel asked his Lordship to follow a number of cases decided on the point and to give judgment for the defendants.

Mr. Hastings submitted that in this charter party the defendants had contracted out of the trade custom. Moreover, a custom was not admissible as evidence in this case because the question of what is a cubic foot has been determined by the law of the colony, and therefore no custom could be admitted to explain what a cubic foot was. Then, again, the custom was unreasonable, and was inconsistent with the plain words of the charter party. A custom which says that a captain must carry 3,000 cubic feet of timber and not to be paid for it could not be received in evidence, as it was in contradiction to the words of the document.

Judgment was reserved.

21st OCTOBER.

His Lordship delivered the following judgment—The plaintiff is the master and part owner of the British barque *Stanfield*, and he is suing for a balance of freight alleged to be due on a cargo of timber brought from Sandakan to this port. The cargo consisted of square timber, planks, and round logs; but it is only in regard to the round logs that we have anything to do. The clause in the charter party—the freight clause I call it—on which the plaintiff is suing reads as follows—or rather a part of it reads:—"22½ cents of Mexican dollars to be paid for each and every cubic foot of timber delivered in Hongkong." It is this clause under which the dispute arises. The question is, In what way should the timber be measured? It is perfectly clear that before the freight can be ascertained the timber has to be delivered in Hongkong. The defendants measured that timber in a certain way which is calculated out in what has been called Table 2 of "Hoppus's Measurer"—a book which has been produced in court. They state that under that measurement the plaintiff has been paid in full, and therefore there is nothing due to him. To support their case a number of witnesses were called who stated that they had had a certain amount of experience in the measurement of timber, and that the invariable rule in Hongkong was to measure timber according to Table 2; and some even went so far as to say they had never heard of any other measurement, and that the measurement under Table 2 applied to timber for all purposes—freight, storage, and sale. The plaintiff, on the other hand, measured his timber by Table 5 in the same book, and he states that under the words in this clause he is entitled to freight for the full cubic measurement of the timber he carried; and he further states that the measurement of the defendants does not

cover the full cubic measurement. He goes on to say that if the defendants desired to put in any custom of that sort they ought to have stipulated it in that clause. There is nothing here about the measurement except the "22½ cents of Mexican dollars for each and every cubic foot," and in this respect he is rather supported by another charter party put in, which contained special words of limitation to the effect that the timber was to be measured according to Hongkong trade measurement, which, I believe, is the same as the measurement adopted by the defendants. Plaintiff says that when these words of limitation are omitted in a charter party they cannot be included and that he is entitled to payment for what he carried. His measurement, of course, is better for himself, and he states that it is a more accurate way to arrive at the cubical contents of a round log of timber (and I think as a probable fact it is), and that therefore if the defendants take the measurement that is least accurate, they ought to show it in the charter party. That contention is good under ordinary circumstances, but there are features in this case which rather alter the matter. The plaintiff came down here some time ago from Borneo with timber under a charter party which contained these words of limitation. Even in the face of that he claimed to measure the timber according to his own rule. Of course he did not recover, and he was then and there informed what the invariable rule in Hongkong was, and that no other method of measuring timber had ever been employed. What are the facts now? He goes down and enters into a charter party with the full knowledge of the custom or regular rule in Hongkong; he is not a stranger to the custom; he goes down there with the full knowledge of it, and with the full knowledge that the defendants would reasonably expect that the timber should be measured in the usual way. It seems to me that the argument he applies to the other side, namely, that if they wish to take the least accurate measurement they should have added the words in the clause, applies equally to him. If he is going to put aside the usual rule and wants to take an unusual rule, he knowing what is the usual rule, he ought to have had it put in the charter party. It seems to me that he has not proved his case, and is not entitled to anything at all. Judgment for defendants with costs.

THE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY'S CONCERT.

On the 16th instant a most enjoyable concert was given at the Mount Austin Hotel in aid of the funds of the Hongkong Benevolent Society. There was a very fair audience, which, however, would probably have been larger had the programme been published in advance. The entertainment had been announced simply as a ballad concert, and outside the acquaintances of those more immediately interested it was not generally known who the performers were to be or whether the concert was likely to prove attractive or otherwise. However, those who attended were richly rewarded and those who stayed away missed a treat. The concert was under the patronage of H.E. Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., H.E. General Black, and Commodore Boyes, all of whom were present.

The programme was as follows:—

Pianoforte Solo Mr. G. Grimble.
Song ... "Phyllis is my only joy" ... Mr. Goodman.
Song "Killarney" Mrs. Craddock.
Violin Solo Mr. Goffe.
Song "The dream of golden years" Miss Lammert.
Song "Whistle an' I'll come to ye" Mrs. Vallings.
INTERVAL.
Violin Solo Mr. Goffe.
Song ... "Loch Lomond" ... Mr. Stewart Lockhart.
Song "I'll sing thee songs of Araby" Mr. Goodman.
Song "Abschied" by Korchat ... Mrs. Marten.
Duet "Over the hawthorne hedge"

Mrs. Craddock and Mrs. Cox song "O whistle an' I'll come to ye me lad." Mrs. Vallings, who has not previously appeared in public in Hongkong, possesses a sweet and flexible soprano voice, which she uses perfectly, and her singing of the charming ballad elicited an enthusiastic encore, to which she responded with "Willie's game to Melville

Castle," which was sung in the same perfect style. Mrs. Craddock's clear soprano voice was heard to advantage in Balfe's tuneful song "Killarney." Miss Lammert sang "The dream of golden years" in her usual pleasing style and as an encore gave "The children's home." Mrs. Dowler was also encored for her song "The promise of life," to which she responded by repeating the last verse. Mrs. Marten, whose singing always affords pleasure, received a warm greeting on her appearance on the stage, and her song was of course encored. In "Over the hawthorne hedge," by Mrs. Craddock and Mrs. Cox, the soprano and contralto voices blended well and a tasteful rendering of the duet was given.

Mr. Goffe's violin playing seems to be more appreciated the oftener it is heard and both his solos on Wednesday evening were encored. The Hon. W. M. Goodman gave a spirited rendering of his two songs, "Phyllis is my only joy" and "I'll sing thee songs of Araby," and was warmly applauded for each. The popular Colonial Secretary, Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, sang "Loch Lomond," and a number of the audience insisted on taking up the refrain as a chorus and when the song was finished having it over again.

The concert was organised by Mrs. Master, who is to be complimented on the excellent programme that was presented.

HONGKONG PUBLIC LIBRARY.

PUBLIC MEETING.

A public meeting of the supporters of the Hongkong Public Library was held at the City Hall on Monday afternoon. His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, presided, and among those present were—Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Hon. T. H. Whitehead, the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, Rev. G. J. Williams, Messrs. R. Shewan, T. Jackson, G. Sharp, H. E. Pollock, E. H. Sharp, G. C. Cox, J. C. Thomson, A. J. David, A. Woolley, G. Piercy, A. J. May, C. C. Platt, J. Hastings, H. L. Dennys, W. G. Barlow, W. Stanton, and J. Duggan.

His EXCELLENCY—Gentlemen—I am sorry I cannot say ladies and gentlemen—I can assure you that I accepted the invitation to take the chair this evening with a great deal of pleasure, because I consider that this is a very important meeting, notwithstanding the very scant attendance; and I may say it is the most important meeting from a recreative and educational point of view that I have had the pleasure of taking the chair at since I came to the colony. I wish that some one more qualified than I had been asked, but if there is any deficiency in my remarks it will be filled up by Mr. Cobbold, the Colonial Secretary, and Mr. Granville Sharp, who have promised to address the meeting. I have to announce to you the formation, not the inauguration, of a public library in Hongkong. (Applause). You will probably ask, where is that public library? So far as I can see echo answers "Where?" But Mr. Cobbold will very likely tell you. You may also ask, where are the books which form that library? Well, gentlemen, here is the catalogue of nearly 2,000 books which will form the nucleus of a library, and an additional 300 books are now on the way from England to be added to the store. One of the deficiencies in this colony is a public library. We all know there is a disconnected library, and we are all to some extent under obligations to the Club library. But the Club library is quite inadequate. Whenever I send down a list of fifteen or twenty books I get perhaps one or two, and all the others are out. Whether they are lost or not I cannot say, but such a state of things ought not to exist in a rich colony like Hongkong. There was a memorandum issued by the trustees of this library in which it was stated that Hongkong was worse off than most of the small towns in Australia. Mr. Sharp will enlighten us on that point, no doubt. I had eighteen years' experience in the West Indies. My first Government was the Government of the Bahamas. That is a very old colony with a Legislative Assembly which they have enjoyed for 150 years. There is a public library there, which is publicly managed and is open from ten

o'clock in the morning until nine o'clock at night. In the Barbadoes, where there has been a Legislative Assembly for 200 years, there is also a magnificent public library of between 60,000 and 70,000 volumes run by the Government. The librarian is Rev. T. H. Walcut, whose salary is £250 a year. There is also a public library in Trinidad, and also a reading room where the latest newspapers and periodicals can be perused, and books borrowed on payment of a shilling a quarter. This morning I received a paper from North Borneo—I do not want to shock you, but I should say it is disgraceful for Hongkong not to have a public library—but in the paper I got this morning there is this extract: "I am very glad to be able to tell you that our Book Club is flourishing and not only have we a goodly number of books, but in January next we shall make our half yearly remittance to Mudie, which will be for about two hundred dollars instead of one hundred as hitherto." That is the position I wish in regard to the community in Hongkong. A colony like this, with its 200,000 inhabitants, the hub of the East, should not be in the position it is in regard to recreation and education so far as public libraries are concerned. An attempt was made some months ago to form a library and a Bill was drafted by Mr. Leach for the purpose of incorporation, but unfortunately the unofficial members, I am sorry to say, did not see their way to vote for it. I do not know why, but I am glad to see I have a very powerful man on my right (Hon. T. H. Whitehead) who will be able to convince them that they were utterly in the wrong. Even if they were not in the wrong I must say, so far as I am concerned, the Government—the official phalanx—would be perfectly justified in running a measure of this sort through the Council. (Applause). I am glad to see that Mr. Whitehead shares that statement. Even if we do not run a Bill I think you ought to insist on the unofficial members voting \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year for the support of this institution, which cannot fail to be of great public use to the residents of Hongkong. I am very sorry that the father of this institution, Dr. Cantlie, is absent, but its nurse is here. (Laughter and applause).

The Rev. R. F. COBBOLD—I believe that nurses are generally gifted with fairly long tongues, and are at any rate able to babble with infants in arms; but I must say I came here to-day quite unprepared to speak, because I thought that the father of the public library would be able to be here to say everything in its favour. No man can take Dr. Cantlie's place, and I am afraid we shall lose a great deal to-day by his absence. I regret very much the cause of his absence, which we all know. He is very unwell indeed, and from what I saw of him a quarter of an hour ago is quite unable to do what he would like to do. His Excellency has laid upon me the light burden of telling you where the Hongkong Public Library is. The room in which it exists is not sufficient to accommodate even this small meeting in addition to the books which are there. It is situated on the same floor as Dr. Cantlie's office, which perhaps some of us know too well. Probably as soon as the new consignment of books comes from home we shall need larger premises. This will be taken into consideration, because of course it will necessitate a certain outlay of expenditure. I was not prepared to tell you the history of the library, and I think most people have a fair idea of its birth and bringing up. You know it started in the Odd Volumes Society's rooms. It very soon became, at any rate it gave promise of becoming, too large in its developments and so the committee of the Odd Volumes Society handed over the library to three trustees and asked the existing sub-committee of the library to continue the executive work of it. The library consists, as his Excellency has said, of nearly 2,000 books, which will shortly be augmented by a consignment from home. What is now needed is public support. I do not mean that more readers are needed, though no doubt more will come, but we want something that will help to support the library. The library has shown during the last few months that it is able to support itself, and if we can, shall I say, make up arrears and if we can once get a fair number of books and if possible a suitable

residence built for them, the library can then be self supporting by subscriptions from readers and, as we sincerely hope, a grant from the Government. You may say as we have a couple of thousand books and have had certain expenses and the library going on for some time, how have we paid for that? Well, we are indebted to several gentlemen, some of whom are present here, for handsome donations, and hope we shall be able to persuade other residents in the colony to subscribe in the same way. Most of all we are indebted to Dr. Cantlie. He practically bought the first lot of books, sending home twenty guineas for the purpose, and what with the rent of the room, which was his, the purchase of some slight necessary furniture, the payment of a temporary librarian and caretaker, some of which money came out of Dr. Cantlie's own pocket, we are really morally indebted to him to a considerable extent. However, in reference to that I received the following letter from him:—"Dear Mr. Cobbold.—I am sorry I am not well enough to attend the meeting of the Hongkong Public Library supporters this afternoon. I understand you are to make reference to the indebtedness (pecuniarily) of the library to me. Please inform the meeting that I have no intention whatever of asking the library to refund the money. As near as I can ascertain I spent about \$500 on initial expenses. Will you please ask the meeting to kindly accept this unconditionally? The library is now an established success, and the unofficial members of the Legislative Council must feel that they were not expressing the true feelings of the community when they opposed the scheme on the ground that there were no readers outside the Hongkong Club to justify a library. I may say that this statement was taken very badly by the British population outside the Club; but it was really the means of the library being started, for smarting under such a remark the community (four-fifths of whom do not belong to the Club) took matters into their own hands with the result we know. The library has subscribers enough to render itself self supporting, but we want the public spirited and the Government if possible to subscribe towards buying new books and equipping the library so as to make it worthy of Hongkong.—Yours faithfully, James Cantlie." Many people, as Dr. Cantlie says in his letter, say "What do you want a Public Library for?" The remark was made to me to-day. A gentleman said, "I see you have a meeting this afternoon. What do you want a library for?" We have a very good library at the Club." I said to him, "Well, there are twice as many people outside the Club who are not members of the Club who want books, and who will read books twice as much on the average as the members of the Club." He said, "Well, there is a library at the City Hall." We have heard that over and over again, and he did not seem to think that that is not a lending library and that no books had been added to the library for twenty-five years. He said, "I used to read at home, but I never do so now." (Laughter). Well, I did not say any more because I did not think he was competent to say anything at all about it. (Laughter). I hope the people who value a library will make the existence of this library known and support it, and if possible eradicate those erroneous ideas that a library in Hongkong is not wanted. (Applause).

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Like the last speaker I came here for the purpose of listening and not to speak; but as your Excellency has asked me to make a few remarks I have very much pleasure in doing so. Mr. Cobbold has just informed us that this library has justified its existence, and that public-spirited men ought to support it. As his Excellency has stated he hopes that both official and unofficial members will vote a large sum towards subsidising the library, and I trust that the unofficial members will not show any opposition to the vote when it comes before the Council. If I am entrusted with the duty I shall have very great pleasure in moving it, and I have no doubt that the hon. member on my left (Hon. T. H. Whitehead) will have great pleasure in seconding it. (Applause). I think myself that the Government might give something in the way of a grant of land

for the erection of the library building which Hongkong should possess. It is a matter which requires much consideration, and I trust it will receive the attention it deserves, and I further hope it will receive the attention of the community generally. So far as the public spirit is concerned I have never known any object worthy of support brought forward which has not received support in every way from the inhabitants of Hongkong. I see here many faces assembled, and although those who have come here are not many in quantity they are in quality, because the public spirit represented here is very great. If those who are here will only put their shoulders to the wheel now we shall not only have a large number of members, but the institution will be properly represented. It has even been said that Hongkong is not a reading community. I cannot agree with that. I have never come across such a well informed community; it has been acknowledged as a most enlightened community, and such a standard of intelligence could not have been maintained except by reading. (Applause). Dr. Cantlie is to be greatly thanked for his exertions in connection with the library, and he has been well seconded in his efforts by Mr. Cobbold and others who have spared neither time nor pains to show those who have tried to throw water on the movement that it was productive of immense good in the colony. I feel certain that the library which has been formed is really wanted in the colony. The number of readers who have already subscribed to it shows that the want exists, and I trust that the public-spirited men in this colony will come forward with subscriptions and that the Government will be able to do something towards forming a library and an institution worthy of the name. (Applause).

Mr. GRANVILLE SHARP said in his travels in Australia some years ago he was very much struck in noticing that in both large and small towns there were always four institutions. There was a church, there was a school, there was a Town Hall, and there was a Free Library. Therefore he thought that Hongkong was altogether behindhand. A great many of the inhabitants had not the privilege and honour of belonging to the Club; and so this was a question between the "haves" and the "have-nots;" and unfortunately the "haves" were very much disposed to take very limited views of the "have-nots." This reminded him very much of the support given to the poor by two fashionable ladies who were talking in front of a fashionable confectioner's shop in Bond Street. One said, "My dear, we do hear so much about the distress, and yet they can get these beautiful buns for twopence ha'penny each." There was a good deal of this sort of thing in Hongkong. There was no doubt that the want for a Public Library existed. On Sunday he found the City Hall Library closed. This was not as it should be. The books had been exceedingly well preserved, but the library occupied a room worth \$150 a month, and yet the whole library would not fetch twelve months' rent and expenses.

Mr. JACKSON was glad that a library had been established. He thought the City Hall library might be made the nucleus of a really good library. Would it not be practicable to get a good room for the library? If the meeting was to be of any use something practicable should be done. Was any resolution to be proposed?

Rev. R. F. COBBOLD—It is not proposed to put any resolution at this meeting. The chief object of it was the making of a statement by his Excellency the Governor that this library existed. I think Mr. Jackson has perhaps not been informed so correctly as he ought to have been, and I must take the blame upon myself. An attempt was made to amalgamate the library in which we are now interested with that at the City Hall, and the Committee of the City Hall library was appealed to, but they did not see their way to effect that amalgamation.

The Rev. G. J. WILLIAMS said it seemed to him that the support must come from the Government, and he therefore suggested that the title of "nurse" be transferred to the name of the Governor himself. It was only from the Governor that they could hope to set the

library on a substantial basis. They needed a proper building and a proper site and a great deal of help, and he thought there would be no difficulty in the public coming forward. When the baby was announced to be on view the public were always anxious to come forward and have a look at it; and once they could prevail upon his Excellency they would do more to practically forward the movement than anything else they could talk about. He thought that now was the opportunity to press the matter to a final conclusion and to ask his Excellency, even informally, to take the office of nurse of this society and to espouse its cause. He (Mr. Williams) was sure his Excellency would have the support of the unofficial members. (Applause.)

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I think it is to be deeply regretted that Hongkong has hitherto not had a Public Library. Reading is a very great resource, and there is an increasing class in this community who cannot get books from the Club library. I think therefore it is absolutely necessary that there should be a Public Library in Hongkong, and I shall be happy to give it every support I possibly can. (Applause). I observe there is a Committee already formed, and it might possibly be well to add to that Committee any names of persons willing to come forward to support the movement, which cannot fail to be beneficial to all classes of the community.

Mr. SHEWAN proposed a vote of thanks to the Governor for presiding. His Excellency was always willing to assist on behalf of the social welfare of the community and as he had himself said he had never attended a more important meeting than this. He (Mr. Shewan) did not agree with the remarks respecting the assistance from the Government. If they could go by themselves it would be much better than always running after the Government. The assistance would come from the Government all right if they moved for themselves first. When Bacon wrote "Reading maketh a full man" he did not foresee what facilities for reading the poorest people in the kingdom would have. At home there were innumerable free libraries, and yet Hongkong was without a library at all. But his Excellency had come forward to support the movement and the heartiest thanks were due to him. (Applause.)

His EXCELLENCY—I thank you very much for the way in which you have received Mr. Shewan's remarks. With the strong support of Mr. Whitehead and other gentlemen I can assure you I will do all I can, privately, publicly, and personally, to insure the success of this library. (Applause). Perhaps we can put an incorporative bill through the Council, and as on that occasion I shall be able to announce a very large surplus I think we might try to subsidise the library. I shall be glad to do all I can. (Applause.)

The proceedings, during which the practising of the Philharmonic Society in the next room had rendered the speeches very difficult to catch, were then brought to a conclusion.

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Hongkong Jockey Club was held in the City Hall on Saturday afternoon. On the motion of Mr. A. Coxon, the Hon. C. P. Chater was called upon to preside. There was a large attendance and amongst those present were—Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Messrs. R. M. Gray, A. Coxon, T. Jackson, M. Grote (Stewards), T. F. Hough (Clerk of the Course), Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Messrs. H. N. Mody, J. J. Francis, Q.C., W. Danby, W. A. Cruickshank, D. R. Sassoon, V. A. Caesar Hawkins, J. Goosmann, J. C. Peter, R. K. Leigh, G. H. Potts, J. Orange, A. C. S. Manners, Lieut.-Colonel The O'Gorman, Lord C. Conyngham, Messrs. J. A. Jupp, A. P. Nobbs, A. H. Mancell, G. Stewart, A. Rodger, R. Alexander, B. Donald, A. Cumming, W. Farmer, W. H. Ray, J. Thurburn, C. C. Cohen, R. B. Joyce, R. Shewan, I. P. Madar, E. C. Ray, D. Landale, Hart Buck, A. S. Hooper, E. F. Mackay, J. Barton, G. C. Fullerton, J. Kramer, A. G. Stokes, W. H. Gaskell, D. E. Brown, R. Inglis, A. G. Morris, C. A. Tomes, Meyer, C. Tomlin, H. W. Robertson, G. Paley, G. Lammert, R. H. R. Burder, E. Jones Hughes, Paul Jordan.

Mr. HOUGH read the notice calling the meeting, and then read the report for the past year.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, on this occasion last year I told you that the state of our finances was a healthy one, and from the accounts which are now presented to you you will see that there has been a further very considerable improvement. Our debit balance, which at the beginning of the year stood at \$12,408.70, has been reduced to \$7,106.66, or a difference of over \$5,000. (Applause). I think that you will agree that our credit account shows a very satisfactory and encouraging state of things, there being an increase in all the

entries, and there has been a corresponding improvement by the number of griffins subscribed for, and this year there are 45 as against 30 last year, a very marked improvement. (Applause). We know, too, how closely the prosperity of racing and the general well-being of the colony are connected, and to my mind there is every indication that there is a good time coming for both. (Laughter and loud applause). Mr. HOUGH—It is not usual for the Clerk of the Course to get up on these occasions, but I feel compelled to get upon my legs on account of the manner in which you have received the very kind references to me, and I take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Jockey Club for the kindly sympathy extended to me on the occasion of my accident. (Applause). The CHAIRMAN—If there are no questions, I beg to propose that the report and accounts as laid before you be accepted by this meeting. I shall be very glad if any member will second. Mr. JONES HUGHES seconded. Carried. Lieut.-Colonel THE O'GORMAN—I beg to propose that the stewards take some measures for the upkeep and maintenance of the steeplechase course during the whole season. (Applause). I think it would be beneficial in every way. (Hear, hear). The CHAIRMAN—I am sure the stewards whom you elect to-day will give note to your suggestion in regard to the steeplechase course. I may mention that the present stewards have already gone into the question and no doubt something will be done before the coming season. (Applause). In my speech just now I stated that some details of the gymkhana meetings would be laid before you after passing of the report and which I shall now do. I have here a statement by the hon. secretary of the Gymkhana Committee, which I shall ask the Clerk of the Course to read for your information. Mr. HOUGH then read the following report:—

When the stewards of the Jockey Club were asked to undertake the regulation of the sky and gymkhana meetings they appointed the then standing Committee to manage the meetings, the Clerk of the Course assuming the duties of honorary secretary. The sum of \$624.32 was handed over. The season opened with a sky meeting on the 20th April, not very auspiciously I am afraid, owing to the wet weather then prevailing, which factor no doubt was responsible for the poor attendance at the stand on that occasion, a loss to the fund being the result. Five gymkhana meetings were subsequently held, i.e., on the 8th June, 13th July, 16th August, 7th September, and 12th October. Subscriptions were received amounting to \$779, and the receipts from the sale of tickets, &c., came to \$1,013. The last-named sum would be much larger were it not that there is very little gate money paid, all members of the Jockey Club being admitted to these meetings free. A number of cups and prizes were kindly presented, of which the public had notification in the programmes. \$1,045 was disbursed from the fund in stakes and prizes, a gymkhana prize was presented to the Jockey Club last meeting, and the expenses of the series of gymkhana meetings come roughly to \$550. There are some small bills, however, still to come from tradespeople, but nothing of large amount. I expect when the account is closed there will be a balance of some \$300 to \$400 to be dealt with. The meetings on the whole were successful and productive of much enjoyment during the summer months.

The CHAIRMAN—You have heard the report of the hon. secretary of the Gymkhana Committee. You perhaps might have observed that we started with a sum of \$624.32 to the credit of the gymkhana fund, but, as stated in the report, from this \$300 had already been promised to the Jockey Club for the last year's race meeting, so that we had virtually a balance of \$324.32 and we leave off with a credit of \$300 or \$400. You therefore see that the gymkhanas have been run without any extra cost to the fund or to the Jockey Club, in other words they have been self supporting. I thought it my duty to place this financial point before you so that you should consider that before deciding whether this arrangement should be made a permanent one or only from year to year. I

am myself of opinion that it should be a permanent one, but some of my colleagues perhaps are of the opinion that the arrangement should be from year to year. However, it is a matter for you, and whatever opinion you may express will no doubt be carefully weighed and carried out by the stewards you elect this afternoon.

Mr. HART BUCK—I would suggest that the arrangement be a permanent one. I think you all know the gymkhanas have given a great deal of pleasure to the people of Hongkong, and particularly to sporting men; and I think it would be better now if we could have the gymkhanas kept up throughout the year. If we do not know we cannot make our arrangements; if we do know at this meeting that we are going to have the gymkhanas we shall be able to make our arrangements for the year. I propose that the gymkhanas be held next year under the auspices of the Jockey Club and run by the Gymkhana Committee.

The CHAIRMAN—I may point out to you that that is exactly where the difference is—whether the arrangement shall be permanent or from year to year. If I understand your proposition, you would rather have them from year to year.

Mr. HART BUCK—We should decide now whether we are to have gymkhanas next year under the auspices of the Club. It is a matter which interests riding men, and if it is decided now that we shall have gymkhanas next year it will give much satisfaction to the community.

The CHAIRMAN—Only for next year. Is that your proposition?

Mr. HART BUCK—Only for next year; and it can be decided again at the next annual general meeting.

Mr. FRANCIS—I beg to second. It seems to me there would be practical difficulties in passing any resolution now sanctioning a permanent arrangement. I hardly know what the Committee would understand by that. It will be always in the power of the Club at any time for sufficient reason to revoke, and it is not necessary to use the term "permanent arrangement." I think for all purposes it would be far better that the matter should come up at every meeting of the Club and the arrangement be renewed from year to year. (Applause).

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, now that the report and accounts have been passed, there is another matter we wish to bring before you, which we consider to be of very great importance—I refer to the construction of permanent stables at the course. You must all recognize the very great danger from fire there exists with the present system of matsheds. It is impossible to prevent Chinese from smoking everywhere, and when he sees his master coming a mafoo will throw the end of his cigarette anywhere he hopes it will not be seen, as likely as not into a heap of straw. The danger is serious enough during the training, but it is enormously enhanced during the races by the smoking that is going on all day long, and the large crowd smoking among the matsheds. A fire under such circumstances is terrible to contemplate, and the stewards have long been considering the advisability of erecting permanent stables such as I have spoken of. The opportunity now seems a good one; our debit balance has been considerably reduced, and we hope that by the end of the year it will have been wiped off. (Applause). We have therefore had plans prepared, which we now lay before you. If you sanction this scheme, we propose to put them in the Grand Stand, and leave them there during the races, so that there will be ample opportunity for all to study them. Any suggestions will be gladly received and carefully considered by the stewards. You will see from the plans that the general idea of the scheme is that we should construct a two-storied building, the ground floor to serve as stables, and the top as private stands, as with the matsheds. Large rooms will also be provided for tiffins, &c. The stables will be divided by moveable partitions into blocks containing the requisite number of stalls and the same system will be followed in separating the stands. Stabling will be provided for about eighty ponies. The total cost will be about \$25,000, but as I have said before, we hope by the end of the year to have wiped out our debit balance of about \$7,000, and so we will be able to start

with a clean sheet, and I may also inform you that the requisite funds for these buildings have been promised us at 6 per cent. per annum, to be repaid from year to year, according to the state of our finances. As regards the financial side of the matter, the sum now paid yearly by the occupiers of matsheds is about \$1,000, but I think that considering the superior accommodation and the increased conveniences which will be provided by the buildings we now propose to put up, we ought to get sufficient rent at all events to meet the interest on our capital expenditure. Having given you full particulars gentlemen, I should like to know whether you are in favour of that these buildings be erected immediately after the races, or whether you would like to have a decision unless the buildings are erected before the races we probably will not have them ready and dry for the following season. (Applause). Has any gentleman any proposition to make? Or would you make any suggestions? I shall be very pleased to hear any suggestions, or would you prefer to leave the matter in the hands of the stewards you elect this afternoon? I would very much like an opinion expressed at this meeting whether you are in favour of it or against it, or whether you prefer to leave it in the hands of the stewards you elect this afternoon.

Mr. FRANCIS—I beg to propose that this meeting cordially approves of this proposal of the stewards with reference to the erection of permanent stables.

Mr. GOOSMANN seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—The next business before us is to elect the stewards for the ensuing meeting. The present stewards are—Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Hon. C. P. Chater, Messrs. Gillies, Gray, Grote, Hobson, J. D. Humphreys, and T. Jackson. His Honour Sir Fielding Clarke has consented to be a steward if elected, and the Hon. Mr. Whitehead, who was a steward the year previous, is back in the colony, and Mr. Michaelsen, who was a steward in Shanghai for three years, has agreed to act if elected.

A ballot was taken, and the following gentlemen were elected:—Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Hon. C. P. Chater, His Honour Sir Fielding Clarke, Messrs. A. Coxon, R. M. Gray, M. Grote, J. D. Humphreys, T. Jackson, R. Shewan, and Hon. T. H. Whitehead.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.

The fourteenth ordinary general meeting of the Canton Insurance Office was held on Saturday, at noon, in the offices of the General Agents (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.). Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving presided, and there were also present—Hon. C. P. Chater, Messrs. S. G. Bird, H. L. Dalrymple, D. R. Sassoon (Consulting Committee), N. J. Ede, J. Thurburn, A. Ross, K. McK. Ross, C. S. Sharp, A. G. Morris, W. H. Ray, G. C. Anderson, E. Burnie, R. M. Mehta, J. B. Coughtrie, W. A. Cruickshank, J. C. Peter, H. C. Gotta, B. Byramjee, G. Remedios, R. C. Wilcox, Jas. McKie, R. Inglis, Sang Cheong Leong, Ho Fook, Ho U Shang, Chen San, and R. H. R. Burder (Acting Secretary).

Mr. BURDER read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report has been in your hands since the 4th instant, and I propose, with your permission, to take for granted that it has been read. I am pleased to say last year's account is the most satisfactory that has been issued since the reorganisation of the Office in 1882, for after paying dividends of 22 per cent. to shareholders and a bonus of 20 per cent. to our valued contributors, the Consulting Committee and General Agents propose to place the sum of \$175,000 to reserve fund, which will then amount to \$1,200,000, and carry forward the balance of \$43,761.68 to the present year. I trust this proposed division of profits, but more particularly the addition to the reserve, will meet with your approval, for we consider it a matter of importance that our Company should be prepared at any time to face any exceptional

run of misfortune which might possibly arise by having a large amount of surplus funds to fall back upon. The premium income shows an increase over 1893 of, approximately, \$190,000, and I would mention this is not due to any fluctuation of exchange, but to a general improvement at nearly all of our agencies. A matter specially worthy of attention in the working of this Office is that charges, commissions, directors' fees, and other disbursements on the debit side of the account, taken together, only amount to \$203,786.80, being equivalent to 14.08 per cent of the net collections, or a ratio of expenses to premium far below the average paid by other Marine Insurance Companies established in the East. The General Agents hope to continue this ratio of expenses. With regard to the estimate for the first nine months of the present year's underwriting the balance at credit is not so favourable as the position of the 1894 account to a similar period, owing to heavy loss sustained recently on lines by several steamers, but more particularly the *Cathartus*, in which the office was nearly fully interested. It is too early to speculate as to the probable outturn of the 1895 account, but if our losses during the approaching winter are not unusually large, I think we may anticipate that the result of the present year's underwriting, when closed, will at least approach the average of recent years. I am pleased to say no losses of importance have been sustained since the report was issued. Our surveyors here and in Shanghai have made their usual annual reports and valuations of the properties mortgaged to the office, and from their statements shareholders may rest assured that the various securities are ample for the advances made. Before closing my remarks I desire, on behalf of the Consulting Committee and General Agents, to express their high appreciation of the manner in which our various agents have assisted in bringing about, by successful underwriting, the results obtained during the period covered by the report. The adoption of the report and accounts I shall propose, after answering any questions shareholders may desire to put. (Applause).

No questions were asked and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. A. Ross—I rise to second the Chairman's motion for the adoption of the report and accounts, and I do so with much pleasure, for, as has been pointed out, the results shown are not only calculated to satisfy but to gratify all connected with the Company, whatever be their peculiar habit of mind. The man of great expectations will find the report throughout a most congenial study; the man that is most resistant to a sense of gratitude cannot quarrel with what he gets in the way of dividend; while that excellent but inexorable gentleman the trustee for the present and future generations, whose special concern is the reserve fund, cannot shake his wise head and say it is not enough. (Applause). So, gentlemen, I think the report, viewed from every standpoint, has all the elements of a good one. The Chairman called our attention specially to the economical management of the Company compared with kindred institutions doing business in the East. This feature is worthy the attention of shareholders, for if the management had been more expensive such a large amount could not possibly have been placed to the reserve fund to bring it up to its present opulent position. I think that all connected with the Canton Insurance Office may say, without suspicion of boasting, that it is a goodly heritage; and let us hope that in the future its lines may not only continue but extend in places as pleasant as in the past. I am sure I express the sentiments of all the shareholders present and absent when I congratulate the General Managers and the Consulting Committee on the excellent account they have given of their stewardship for the year 1894. (Applause).

The CHAIRMAN—It having been proposed by myself and seconded by Mr. Ross that the accounts as presented be adopted, will those in favour signify in the usual way?

Carried.

Mr. W. H. RAY—I beg to propose the re-election of the Consulting Committee—Messrs. Dalrymple, Sassoon, Gillies, Chater, and Bird.

Mr. BYRAMJEE seconded.

Carried.

Mr. A. G. MORRIS—I have much pleasure in proposing the re-election of the auditors, Messrs Fullerton Henderson and A. Coxon.

Mr. C. S. SHARP seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That, gentlemen, concludes the business of the meeting. I thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be issued on Monday.

HONGKONG, CANTON, AND MACAO STEAMBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company, Limited, was held at the offices, 18, Bank Buildings, on Wednesday, at noon. Hon. E. R. Bellicos presided, and there were also present—Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Messrs. F. A. Gomes, J. Kramer, N. A. Siebs, Poon Pong (Directors), C. Tomlin (Acting Secretary), J. H. Cox, A. Denison, A. C. S. Manners, Captain Radclyffe, E. J. Moses, G. Sharp, S. S. Benjamin, A. Fukeera, Woo Hon, Wong Ping Lum, Chun Chai, Lee Shing, and Chun U Fai.

The ACTING SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, I move that the following resolution passed at the extraordinary general meeting held on 30th September last be now confirmed:—

"That the capital of the Company be reduced from \$1,600,000, divided into 80,000 shares of \$20 each, to \$1,200,000, divided into 80,000 shares of \$15 each, and that such reduction be effected by returning to the holders of the 80,000 shares which have been issued capital to the extent of \$5 per share and by reducing the nominal amount of all the shares from \$20 to \$15."

Mr. J. H. Cox seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, steps will at once be taken to carry this resolution into effect. I may remark that our solicitor advises that it is impossible to say what time will elapse before the return of capital may be made; it will not be less than three months, it may be as long as six months. That is all the business and I thank you for your attendance.

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Douglas Steamship Company, Limited, was held at the office of the Company, Praya Central, on Monday, at noon, for the purpose of passing a special resolution. Mr. J. H. Lewis presided, and there were also present. Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Messrs. R. Shewan, A. Ross, D. R. Sassoon (Consulting Committee), V. H. Deacon (Solicitor to the Company), W. Parfitt (Secretary), J. R. Michael, A. G. Morris, T. I. Rose, H. Crawford, A. Tillett, J. D. Hutchison, D. E. Brown, C. Georg, Captain Hall, J. H. Cox, H. Brodersen, and Ho Fook.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, when submitting the report and accounts at our last annual general meeting I mentioned that the articles of association did not allow of a larger return to shareholders, after due provision for depreciation of the Company's properties, than it was then proposed to pay, viz., 12, per cent. After carefully considering the position, the general managers and consulting committee, with the advice of the Company's solicitors, recommend the addition of a short clause to paragraph 1, article XIX. of the articles of association, which, if passed and duly confirmed, will permit of the payment of a bonus to shareholders from time to time when the profits and circumstances render it advisable. I think this will meet the views of shareholders and before proposing the special resolution I have only to add that, provided it be passed and confirmed in proper course, it is the intention to pay a bonus of \$12.50 per share to shareholders.

Mr. MORRIS—I think I am speaking for the body of the shareholders here, and it would meet their views if a bonus of \$15 was paid.

The CHAIRMAN—That is a question for subsequent consideration; we shall have to alter the articles of association in any case.

Mr. MORRIS—Yes, of course, the articles of association will have to be altered, and if you had not mentioned that you intended to pay a bonus of \$12½ I should not have made any remark.

The CHAIRMAN—We have given very careful consideration to the question and have come to the conclusion that it would not be advisable to pay more.

Mr. MORRIS—Then it will be necessary to bring the views of the shareholders before the directors.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, you can do that. I now beg to propose—"That the full stop at the

articles of association be omitted and that there be substituted therefor the words 'or in or towards the payment to the shareholders of such bonus or bonuses as the General Managers shall with the approval of the Consulting Committee think fit.'"

Captain TILLET seconded the resolution.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—A confirmatory meeting will have to be held as soon as possible. In the meantime I shall be very glad to have the views of the shareholders in regard to the question of the bonus.

Mr. MORRIS—Do you wish me to put the views of the shareholders in writing—to state the amount of the shares I represent?

The CHAIRMAN—That would be more satisfactory, certainly. That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance.

RAUB.

The Mining Manager's report, for the five weeks ending 2nd October, 1895, runs as follows:—

Raub Hole, No. 2 Shaft.—The sinking of this shaft is now completed to a depth of 101 ft. below the 120 ft. level. We have opened out at 96 ft. and have cut a plat 9 ft. by 7 ft., gradually bringing it in to 7 by 5, 20 ft. in from the shaft. This is now in 18 ft. to the west. I expect to have to drive 60 to 70 ft. before cutting the lode, which I hope to complete in about five weeks' time. I have started to sink the winze to connect the 120 ft. level with that going in from the bottom; it is now down 5 ft., and I hope to have it down and connected with the bottom level by the time the level gets under it. Stopes.—There are three faces at work in the south end on a lode from 3 inches to 12 inches wide which shows fair gold.

Bukit Koman.—The engine shaft is now down close on 90 ft. below the 146 ft. level, and I hope to have it down the required depth in two or three weeks. There is no change in the ground, which is still hard blasting slate intersected by quartz leaders. Stopes.—The work of extending these is proceeding steadily. As we go south, the shoot of ore is gradually rising with the hill and is now about 25 feet above the level 120 ft. south of the crosscut. In the face going north the lode is fully 18 feet wide. At 10 ft. over the back of the level, from the north to the south face, it is now about 350 ft. long, and the lode will average 15 ft. wide, almost all of which is being sent to the mill for crushing. The work of clearing away the fall and securing the ground is steadily proceeding. The bulk of the crushing stuff for the mill is being sent from here.

Western Lode.—Stopping between the north and south air shafts is steadily proceeding, the lode being from 1 to 10 ft. wide, and will average about 4 ft. Very fair gold can still be seen in breaking the ore. I have opened out on a body of stone about 18 in. wide going north in the north air shaft in which a little gold can be got. This is 40 feet west of our main workings. I have stopped for the present the drive going south from this air shaft; there is about 2 ft. of stone in the face of the drive in which a little gold can be got by mortar crushing, but it is not payable.

Battery.—A general clean up of this took place at the beginning of last week, when the total yield for the twelve weeks run was 1,346 oz. 18 dwts. 0 grs. smelted gold from 2,875 tons. About twenty-four hours were lost owing to not being able to cart sufficient stone to the mill. The following are the proportions crushed from the

different mines:—Raub Hole No. 2 shaft 10, Western Lode 10, and Bukit Koman 10, the average yield being a little over 9 dwts. 8 grs. per ton. After effecting some small repairs to machinery, crushing was resumed again on Tuesday afternoon, the 24th September, and has continued steadily since.

Railway.—Fair progress is being made with laying the rails and ballasting the line. The rails are being laid as fast as they come forward, and I hope to have the line in running order as far as Bukit Koman by the end of next week. Fair progress is being made with the hopper for holding ore to fill the railway trucks from the tramway connecting the engine shaft. The hopper is well on the way, the tramway is 40 ft. above the bottom of the hopper. I hope to have the whole thing completed by the time the line is in running order. The sooner this is completed the better, as the clocks won't stand the work much longer; in 12 months no cattle will stand the constant work these animals have to do in a climate like this.

General.—There has been a good deal of sickness in the camp of late, no less than 10 of the European staff having to be invalided and sent away last week. I attribute this to the hot rainy weather we have been having for some time.

WM. BIBBY.

The Singapore Secretary of the Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Limited, has received the following telegram from Raub:—"Raub, 16th October, 1895. First railway in Pahang, Raub to Bukit Koman, opened to-day. Locomotive now being used to haul quartz to battery and transport by bullock cart stopped. Everything satisfactory."

SIX MONTHS AMONGST THE PIRATES

M. LYAUDET RELATES THE EXPERIENCES OF HIMSELF AND FAMILY.

The *Courrier d'Haiphong* of the 14th October publishes the report of an interview with M. Lyaudet, in which a graphic account is given of the experiences of that gentleman and his wife and little girl while they were in the hands of the pirates.

In the first place M. Lyaudet confirmed the accuracy of the reports of the capture published in April, with the exception of some unimportant details. The pirates, it seems, had only one sampan, instead of two, and they did not number more than from twenty to twenty-five men. The capture occurred on the 24th April.

"When we were awakened," said Mr. Lyaudet, "about ten o'clock at night, we found ourselves already surrounded and in the hands of the pirates. Resistance was useless and would only have resulted in our murder. I threw away without firing it the revolver which I had at hand. Our impression was one of stupor—furious cries, the awaking in the midst of semi-nude men who carried as off and bundled us into a sampan—it was like a horrible nightmare. Once in the sampan some of the pirates literally sat on us in order to prevent our making the least movement. Others, who held their carbines pointed at us, would have fired on the first cry. When in doubling the point the sampan crossed the bows of the *Fluviales* boat at a distance of two hundred meters it was impossible for us to cry for help."

At daybreak on the 25th April low lying land appeared and at the mouth of a river was a Chinaman with two buckets drawing water, who no doubt was there by arrangement to give information, for after the pirates had exchanged a few words with him they disembarked. Almost immediately, after passing the telegraph line, they entered the jungle, and under a scorching sun, barefooted and without head-covering, the captives had to tramp until midday. At the summit of a treeless hill was a sort of shelter, where they passed the night. From this hill a view of the entire neighbourhood was obtainable and the chief of the band pointed out Port Wallut in the distance. During the night, as often happened afterwards, they set out for the next halting place. The day of

the 26th was passed in deep ravines, where not a word was allowed to be spoken and the pirates were on the alert at the slightest sound. For three nights the march continued, over almost impassable hills, where a path had to be made by separating the branches of the jungle. On the night of the 29th they arrived at a lair where the captives for the first time saw the whole band together. It comprised about a hundred and fifty men armed with repeating rifles, under the command of four or five petty chiefs. On the 30th the fatiguing journey was continued. A high mountain was climbed and then a defile entered, which M. Lyaudet believes to have been that of the Grandes Mamelles. On the night of the 1st May Chinese territory was entered, and the captives were not brought back to Tonkin until July, when they were taken for concealment to the fastness of Panai.

On the 3rd May the chief whom all the others seemed to obey, and whose name was Thien Sap-si, ordered Mr. Lyaudet to write to M. Portal, the manager of the Kebao Coal Mining Co., demanding a ransom of a million dollars. A little later the demand was reduced to \$500,000.

The interviewer asked for an explanation of this large demand, which the pirates must have known it would be difficult to obtain, being greatly out of proportion to the ransoms paid for prisoners already released.

M. Lyaudet explained that the pirates had a compradore, a man who pretended to speak and write French, though he could hardly speak more than a few words. It was he who told the pirates that the Lyaudets occupied a very prominent position at Kebao, that they were very rich, and that a large ransom should be asked for. When the pirates found that this man had deceived them he fell into disgrace. He had ill-treated the captives, had caused them to be beaten, and to have canes placed on their necks. Naturally they could not carry the canes while they were marching, but they had them put on while in camp, so that they could neither move nor sleep.

During the period from the 1st May to the 5th July the camp was changed fifty-six times. This continued movement caused great suffering to the captives, worn out as they were, and having each day for their food only a little rice without salt.

On the morning of the 6th July, before daylight, they again crossed the frontier, between Pac-si and Nam-si, passing near a blockhouse, and during the day they arrived at the fastness of Panai. Already the military had arrived in this neighbourhood, firing commenced on the 8th, and on the 12th shells began to strike all over the camp, and one ricocheted quite close to the mat shed in which the pirates were kept. During the night the pirates, seeing that their captives were likely to be killed and all chance of the ransom to be lost, removed them to another hill, where they remained until the 16th, guarded by half a score of the pirates. The rain fell in torrents and the captives were in deep despair, their strength and courage exhausted. On the 18th they were again removed lower down the hill, where they had very little protection from the weather, being exposed to rain and sun. Here they remained until the 30th. During this time the investment of Panai continued and the captives heard the fusillade. During several hours on the 28th they were placed behind a rock to shelter them from the shells and the Lebel bullets that were flying around. On the 30th a pirate brought to them, saying they were those of an officer who had been killed, the ears of a soldier of the Legion who had fallen at the foot of the entrenchment, and whose rifle and cartridges were secured.

Seeing that the Protectorate refused to pay any ransom and that notwithstanding their resistance the stronghold of Panai, which they had considered impregnable, was likely to be carried, the pirates became exasperated and their attitude to the captives was very threatening. The chief, Thien Sap-si, being afraid that his men would kill them did not leave them night or day, and had it not been for him they would surely have been murdered. It was to be supposed that a certain number of the pirates fell in the fighting, but the captives were so strictly guarded in the

place of seclusion in which they were kept that they saw nothing of this.

Since the 16th the first compradore had disappeared. The new one, who spoke French a little better and said he had been at Langson engaged in transport work, also exerted himself to calm the pirates, and he treated the captives with less brutality than his predecessor.

On the 31st, at nine o'clock in the evening, Thien Sap-si suddenly decided on the captives' removal from Panai. Perhaps he thought this was the only way of saving them from the fury of his men. Without giving them time to take anything with them, not even the diary which M. Lyaudet had kept day by day, and which was found by the French troops after the capture of Panai, he led them through the darkness and the fog. In the early morning, as the fog lifted for a moment, they saw the tents of the French officers on the crest of a hill, quite close. They were made to lie down in the thick grass until the fog again settled down, and then they passed into a defile about five hundred metres from the Po-hen post. They were then outside the line of investment.

In the evening, during the halt in the wood, Thien Sap-si, wishing to impress the Lyaudets, took away their little girl Sarah. The next morning, however, at four o'clock, in answer to their pleadings, she was restored to them. Then the compradore, no doubt to sound them, suggested an escape. For five or six thousand dollars he undertook to bring them to a post in Tonkin, but it was necessary to leave their child, who could not follow them. The proposal was indignantly declined.

On the night of the 1st September, by almost impassable paths, which it was difficult to follow even in Indian file, a long detour was made, and crossing the frontier above Bac-pho-si, they were once more in Chinese territory. For several days the same painful journey was continued, amongst the Hundred Thousand Hills, where hardly a trace of cultivation was to be seen. The sparse and widely scattered population occupied miserable huts on the hillsides and subsisted solely on maize that with great difficulty they grew. They were in a Catholic country, no doubt the district belonging to Father Freycinet's mission. A woman whom they met wore a scapular. Moreover, a letter reached them from Monseigneur Renaud, who placed himself at their service, but the pirates would not permit them to send an answer.

We remained there, M. Lyaudet continued, until the 13th September, not having even rice to eat, and for ten days we were reduced to a few grains of boiled maize without salt, and a few rats which we grilled. At this time the pirates were discouraged and the compradore brought forward a plan for sending me alone to Tonkin, giving me a month to return with a ransom of \$200,000, my wife and child to remain in their hands as hostages. On the 13th we were taken down the mountain. Setting out at eight in the morning we did not reach the foot until ten o'clock. Then, after crossing a river, I was separated for the first time from Mme. Lyaudet and Sarah. With six men to guard me I was told that I was to be sent to Moncay, and Thien Sap-si made me promise to bring \$200,000 for the chiefs, \$4,000 for the forty members of the band, and \$1,500 for the compradore. But on the evening of the 16th we were again united. Madame Lyaudet, seeing herself separated from me, said that she would find out the men who took me away. She began to scream and cry and throwing herself on one of the pirates snatched away his dagger, with which she tried to kill herself. This scene took place in an inhabited house in a Chinese village. Thien Sap-si disarmed my wife and said to her: "We will go and find M. Lyaudet."

Two days more were passed in this village. Then, with three or four chiefs and forty other pirates, we marched towards the south, near the Chuk-san coast. I felt the salt breeze which told that we were approaching the sea, and when we reached the top of the hill we saw the sea before us, at a distance of fifty kilometers, between Chuk-san and Paklung. We were now in a well peopled and cultivated district with flourishing Chinese villages. From time to time a detour was made from the road, a

pirate who was in waiting said a few words to the chief, and the march continued.

But soon a detachment of Chinese regulars was met. The officer in command was on horseback. We were surrounded and marched in an unknown direction. The Chinese regulars and the pirates fraternised as good comrades. Arrived at a large village, the Chinese officer ordered a halt and took us into a temple. But at the entrance to the village the regulars and pirates had taken care to form two separate parties. Behind us we heard some shots, two volleys. Was this a pretence at a fight, were all these people playing a comedy, or was the firing simply a sign of rejoicing?

In the temple two mandarins were seated. We were taken before them and obliged to kowtow.

In recalling this incident Mr. Lyaudet was transported with anger and the *Courrier* urges that it is a matter to be borne in mind by the Minister at Peking when effecting a settlement of the case.

After us, continued M. Lyaudet, Thien Sap-si and one of the petty chiefs who had guarded us during the last few days also prostrated themselves before the mandarins. The man with Thien Sap-si received from one of the mandarins a roll of silver, \$5 in ten cent pieces. We knew the amount because another similar roll was opened to pay our porters.

The pirates dispersed and in a side apartment the mandarins had a meal served for us. We were in a state of indescribable misery. Since our abduction we had worn the same clothes, which were in rags, and we were revoltingly dirty. A woman was moved to pity for Madame Lyaudet and offered her a Chinese dress.

Night arrived. We again set out, with an escort of Chinese regulars, on a good road. But at ten o'clock the night was so dark that the officer halted between two ruined houses and said we would wait there till the moon rose. Then Thien Sap-si reappeared with some of his men, armed to the teeth, and the hope which we cherished of soon being set at liberty disappeared. It seemed a simple change of guard, as if the pirates had surrendered us to other pirates dressed as regulars. We set out again and during the whole night went on we knew not whither. At seven in the morning the detachment was replaced by another guard of regulars.

On the 8th, at four in the morning, we arrived at a house which we were told was occupied by General Sou. Here an excellent European meal was served to us. It was six months since we had eaten bread.

Once more we cherished hope, this treatment was so different from that we had experienced ever since our abduction. In the course of the morning General Sou came to see us, spoke kindly to us, and said that a gentleman with much gold lace on his arms would come in the evening to take us away with him to Pac-si. In the afternoon a table was luxuriously prepared for a European dinner, with champagne cups on the cloth. Assuredly visitors of distinction were expected.

The inhabitants crowded round to examine us as though we were strange animals and their curiosity became so pressing that General Sou ordered the door to be closed. There we impatiently waited, hardly daring to believe it true, the deliverance of which we had so often dreamt.

A tumult, the sound of approaching footsteps, and then appeared before us M. Bons d'Anty, Captain Coiffé, Dr. Clavel, and M. Baduel, interpreter, with General Sou. No longer doubt. It was liberty! A few hours more and we were once more under the protection of the French flag.

It is believed that General Sou effected the deliverance of the captives by paying out of his own pocket a ransom of \$6,000.

As the steamer *Esmeralda* was hauling out from the wharf at Manila on the 14th inst., we learn from *Che omericio*, the cable broke; the end striking on the right temple a Carabinero who was on duty on board, knocking him down with such force that his skull was fractured. Death was instantaneous. The unfortunate man leaves a widow and child.

THE LIABILITY OF MARINE STORE DEALERS.

At the Magistracy on Tuesday Mr. Gedge applied on behalf of the Crown for the re-hearing of a case in which a marine store dealer was acquitted by the Acting Police Magistrate, Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, of two alleged offences under Ordinance 9 of 1875.

Mr. Gedge said—Your Worship, I am instructed by the Crown to apply for a re-hearing of the charge against Leung Yeung, marine store dealer, of having unlawfully in his possession certain stores, to wit, a quantity of old rope, and neglecting to enter the purchase of the same in a book on October 14th. Section 5 of Ordinance 9 of 1875 says, "Every dealer in marine stores to whom a licence shall have been granted shall keep a book or books fairly written, and shall enter therein an account of all such marine stores, or old metal, as he may, from time to time, become possessed of, stating in respect of each article the time at which and the person from whom he purchased or received the same, adding in case of every such last mentioned person a description of his business and place of abode." In this case there was little doubt that the defendant received this rope and had it in his possession; I think that is indisputable. I understand that the defendant was discharged on the ground—

His Worship—I gave no reasons.

Mr. Gedge—I beg your Worship's pardon. I have to make this application on the ground that we have further evidence; in fact we can put Detective-Sergeant McIver in the box, and he—

His Worship—Why was not his evidence produced on the day of hearing?

Mr. Gedge—Through, perhaps, the fault of the Crown. It could have been produced, and Sergeant McIver was here to give evidence, but I understand your Worship would not allow him to go into the box.

His Worship—I heard no mention of Sergeant McIver's name.

Mr. Gedge—I am sorry I am instructed wrongly, your Worship.

His Worship—You are instructed wrongly; very wrongly.

Mr. Gedge—We have the evidence now that Sergeant McIver warned all the marine store dealers a day or two before the rope in question, which had been stolen from a public garden, was bought by the defendant. We can therefore prove that this man knew as a fact that this rope had been stolen.

His Worship—How can he have known it?

Mr. Gedge—He was warned, and he must have known if he was warned by the detective.

His Worship—He might have heard that some rope had been stolen, but as for knowing this particular rope was stolen, that is a different matter.

Mr. Gedge—He was told two days previously that the rope had been stolen.

His Worship—That is hearsay evidence.

Mr. Gedge—It is certainly hearsay evidence, but the theft was brought very prominently before his mind, so that when, as was the case, he had the rope brought to him he ought to have known, or anyhow ought to have remembered, what had been told him two days previously about the rope. My submission is that this is very strong evidence to show that this man knowingly received that rope, though it is hearsay evidence.

His Worship—When the rope was brought there, was he in the shop?

Mr. Gedge—No, he was not; but I would point out that the evidence went to prove that he went out some time after 12 o'clock leaving a foki in charge of the shop and came back at 1.30. The fourth entry in the book was made at 12 o'clock; no entry was made of the rope, and the fifth entry was made at one o'clock.

His Worship—I think the entries referred to the hour at which the goods were purchased, and not the hours at which the entries were made.

Mr. Gedge—Even if that is the case in all probability the entries were made at the time of the purchase.

His Worship—It was proved by the police witness that he was not in the shop at the time, and knew nothing about the rope having been bought.

Mr. Gedge—If he keeps a marine store shop he ought to have somebody in his shop who is responsible.

His Worship—Can you show me any law under which a master is made responsible for the acts of his servant committed without the knowledge of the master?

Mr. Gedge—I cannot produce a case at the present moment.

His Worship—No, it is not the law, and you know perfectly well it is not the law. In criminal law you cannot make a master responsible for the acts of his servants. It was brought clearly out that the defendant was not in the shop at the time.

Mr. Gedge—Then he can stay away altogether and make this section a nullity?

His Worship—I am not going to give an opinion on that at all.

Mr. Gedge—A man may stay away from his shop from morning to night and get off on the ground that his servant bought the property.

His Worship—You might make the servant responsible.

Mr. Gedge—Somebody must be made responsible for the proper keeping of the shop. Another thing, they are the master's books, and not the servants'. The entry ought to be made at the time.

His Worship—The master was not there to make the entry; he knew nothing about it. If you could have proved that the master knew it, without doubt it would have been quite a different thing.

Mr. Gedge—How can the master know anything about it when he leaves the shop? It is all nonsense, I put it to you, that a marine store dealer or anybody who employs a servant in his business can get off, subject to this Ordinance, by leaving his shop. He can go away the first thing in the morning till late at night, and marine stores can be bought *ad libitum*, and he cannot be convicted.

His Worship—Every case must be decided on its own merits.

Mr. Gedge—I ask your Worship to hold that a marine store dealer must have someone in authority to make those entries. This man, as your Worship knows, was told that the rope had been stolen. The detective warned all the marine store dealers in the usual way; therefore they ought to be all the more careful to make proper entries of all marine stores purchased.

His Worship—That would aggravate the offence, but as to whether the offence is committed is another thing.

Mr. Gedge—I think your Worship has little doubt that the offence was committed.

His Worship—Not by the master.

Mr. Gedge—The section reads, "Every dealer in marine stores," not the servants.

His Worship—"To whom a licence shall have been granted."

Mr. Gedge—Yes, "to whom a licence shall have been granted." The dealer is the licensed man and not the servant. I strongly put it to your Worship that this man must have a person in authority in his shop to make the entries. I submit that if these marine store dealers can go and act on your Worship's decision—

His Worship—It is not for them to go on my decision. You can appeal against my decision at any time.

Mr. Gedge—I am quite aware of that, your Worship.

His Worship (sharply)—It is absurd to say that my decision would make it difficult to deal with marine store dealers. If you are not satisfied with my decision you can appeal, and don't come into court and talk like that. It is not on account of my decision that it will be difficult to deal with marine store dealers. If you are not satisfied with my decision, appeal against it. You base your application on the ground that you have further evidence that was not produced at the time.

Mr. Gedge—Yes, all the further evidence I have is that of Sergeant McIver.

His Worship—Is it not rather in your mind that my decision, upon the evidence already tendered, was a wrong decision—is not that more in your mind, Mr. Gedge?

Mr. Gedge—It is, your Worship.

His Worship—Well, then, is it not the proper course to appeal if the new evidence is

of such a nature as to add force to what has gone before?

Mr. Gedge—We can prove now that this man knew that the rope had been stolen, and therefore the rope was knowingly purchased. Of course if your Worship is against me I have nothing more to say. What my contention is, as I have said before, is that this man should have someone in authority to keep the books, and if your Worship is against me I might be able to change your Worship's mind. Sergeant McIver's evidence is that the defendant knew all about it. Of course this is only probability—in all probability the defendant left the shop on purpose while these marine stores were being bought.

His Worship—Are you going to prove that the man left the shop on purpose?

Mr. Gedge—Of course we cannot prove that, but it is a fair argument.

His Worship—It is not a fair argument unless you have evidence to prove that the man left the shop on purpose.

Mr. Gedge—There is the presumption, and surely I am entitled to put it forward. This purchase was the only entry not made in the book.

His Worship—How do you know that?

Mr. Gedge—By their own admission, I am instructed.

His Worship—I do not think there was any admission of that sort at all.

Mr. Gedge—There is the evidence that an entry was made at 12 o'clock and another at one o'clock, and this rope was bought at 12.30. That is all the evidence I can further submit to your Worship, and I will not take up your Worship's time if you are against me. Your Worship knows what evidence I can call, but if your Worship is against me I will not proceed. I would point out that the section does not say he shall personally keep a book or books, but it says "shall keep a book or books," meaning "or cause the books to be kept."

His Worship—I shall decline to re-hear the case, but I am quite prepared to state a case for appeal if you want it.

THE MURDER OF A NORWEGIAN SEAMAN.

A MAN AND WOMAN ARRESTED.

On Tuesday, the 15th inst, Inspector Stanton and Inspector Hanson arrested a man and woman who are believed to have inflicted the terrible injuries which caused the death of the Norwegian seaman, Johann Gundersen. The couple are not married, but they live together as man and wife, and they are the owners of a fourth-class rowing boat, the one, which it is alleged the seaman engaged on the night he was so brutally murdered. The inquest was opened on Monday, and in the evening Inspector Hanson received information that the boat which had taken the deceased from the wharf was lying off Bonham Strand West. The officer made enquiries and arrested some people in charge of this boat, but a watchman who gave evidence at the inquest said that these were not the people concerned, and after due investigation they were allowed to go, as it was clear they were guiltless. On Tuesday morning the watchman told Inspector Hanson that the boat in which the deceased was taken was lying at Bonham Strand West. Inspector Hanson went there, took the woman in charge of the boat to the station, and Inspector Stanton afterwards caught the man who held the licence. Not only the watchman, but other boat people have identified this man and woman as the persons who rowed the deceased from the wharf. The inquiry was resumed on the 15th inst. before Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, and as result of the watchman's evidence, together with the evidence of Inspector Hanson, who found marks of blood on the oar of the boat and also on a chopper, the man and woman were charged with murdering the seaman. The man's name is A. Kan, and the woman is known by the sobriquet of "Small-pocked Sam." When charged the man said "I do take Europeans, but this is spite." The woman admitted taking a man answering the description of the deceased, and said he was left on the ship, which had gone away.

On the inquiry being resumed on the 15th inst. Inspector Hanson got into the box and said—On the 10th inst. at 3 p.m. I went to Ping Chan Island and took charge of the body of the deceased. The deceased's waistcoat was considerably torn, and the button holes had been forced open. The watch chain hole was jagged and cut. Just before his death the deceased was wearing a watch and chain, which was fastened to his waistcoat by a split ring. This morning the watchman came to me and from information he gave me I went to the steps opposite Bonham Strand West and took charge of a rowing boat and a woman who was in it. The man was afterwards arrested. I made an examination of the boat. The oar had blood stains upon it, principally between the blade and the joint. I also found a chopper which bears the marks of what appear to be blood stains. The boat is 15 feet long and flush. The middle part is covered with a roof which takes up two-thirds of the length. The boats of this class are chiefly used by Chinese, and they squat under the roof. The crew consisted of the man and woman taken by the police. The sleeve of the coat was saturated with blood and I suggest that at the time he was murdered the deceased was lying on his left side with his head on his arm and that the blood from the wounds saturated his left sleeve. I think the blow at the back of the head was first dealt. The incised wounds were in one direction and appeared to have been inflicted by one person. The punctured wounds were doubtless inflicted on the head by one person who propped the man with a sharp instrument in order to be quite certain that death would take place. There were no signs whatever of a struggle.

Cheung Fong, a Bonham Strand watchman, said—I went with Inspector Hanson to Bonham Strand West and pointed out the boat No. 3,580 to him as the one in which the deceased went on the night of the 6th inst. There were three boats there altogether that night, and from what I was told I believe this one was the boat into which the deceased got. I am not able to say of my own knowledge that this is the boat. I am able to say that the woman arrested was at the bow of the boat on the night in question, and also that the man was there. The boat which the deceased got into was this one and they are the people who rowed him off. The man was at the stern and the woman at the bow. It was too dark for me to recognise the boat but I recognise the man and woman because I had known them before. I heard the woman say to the man, "This man is too drunk. I do not know whether he has money or not. Ask him to show us money before we row him off." I am well acquainted with the man and woman, have constantly seen them at the wharf, and I recognised the woman's voice. I heard the man speak to deceased in pidgin English. Sailors frequently land at this wharf, but usually go off from another wharf.

Bo Ki, watchman, Bonham Strand, said—I was on duty at 10.45 p.m. on the 6th inst. I saw a drunken European go to the stone steps at the end of Bonham Strand and call a boat. He stood about half an hour before he got a boat. A boatman named A Kau (the male prisoner) bargained to take him to the ship for 40 cents, but finally agreed to take him for 24 cents. I heard all this bargaining. The European then stepped into the boat and nearly fell into the water. I heard several boat people say, "He has got a watch," and the boat then went away. The next morning I asked A Kau whether it had been easy or difficult to get the 24 cents, and he replied "Difficult."

August Johannsen, recalled, said—The last time I saw deceased was at 7.30 p.m. on the 6th instant. At that time he was wearing an old silver watch and a brass chain. The watch had "U. L. B." inscribed on the inside of it, and a house was chased on the back. The watch formerly belonged to me and deceased bought it from me.

The Magistrate—I find that the deceased died under the effects of wounds on the head and person, suspicion pointing to their being inflicted by two Chinese named A Kau and "Small-pocked" Sam, who have accordingly been charged with the murder of the deceased.

At the Magistracy on Thursday, before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, A. Kan and "Small-pocked" Sam were charged with the murder of Johann

Gundersen, a Norwegian seaman, on the 6th inst. Mr. Master, Acting Crown Solicitor, prosecuted.

Tom Stevenson, who is employed in the Chinese Customs, spoke to finding the body of the deceased a mile to the north of Kau-i-cha.

Adolph Bockelmann, assistant to the German shipping master, who also keeps the German taven, identified the body of the deceased. Witness was told on the 10th inst. by the captain of the *George F. Manson* that Gundersen was missing from the barque, and he went to the Central Police Station and asked if Gundersen had been locked up. Witness was told by the Inspector that a body had been picked up at sea, and on returning to the station later in the day he found that the body had been brought in by Inspector Hanson, and witness at once recognised the man as Gundersen.

Other witnesses gave evidence of identification, and Ho Pan, a boatman, said he plied for hire at the Bonham Strand steps, and remembered a European calling for a boat about eleven o'clock on the evening of the 5th or 6th inst. There were three boats there altogether. One belonged to witness, one to A Yau, and the third to the male prisoner, A Kan. The male prisoner knew English and spoke to the European, who took out 24 cents and handed them to him. Witness saw this quite plainly, as he was close to the prisoner, and there was an electric light very near to the spot. The European went on board the male prisoner's boat and lay down. The female prisoner was also on the boat, which was rowed off. The European lay on his right side.

A Yau, boatman, gave corroborative evidence. The case was adjourned.

FOOTBALL.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB v. G. COMPANY OF THE RIFLE BRIGADE.

It is not usual for football matches to be played early in October in Hongkong, but owing to the ensuing competition all Clubs are already doing their best to bring their teams to a state of perfection, either by practices or by matches. On Thursday an interesting game was witnessed between the above two Clubs. Both have practised this season and it was a foregone conclusion that hard work would have to be done by either side in order to secure an advantage. The Club kicked off and at first pressed, but a good kick by Duggan, one of the Army's backs, sent the ball to the Brigade Captain, who passed right over to the left wing. A shot was here taken at goal and it went into the net, but on the outside. A good run down by the Club's forwards eventually sent the ball to Firth, who centred it well. A shot at goal was then taken, but the kick was fruitless, the ball sailing far over the bar. Now Davies, the Club's back, began to prove himself equal to any emergency, and materially assisted his side to keep well up the field. Again the ball fell right in front of the military citadel, but Sheldon shot it just over the bar by a well-aimed shot. Visits were then paid to both goals, but the defence in each case was too good. Shortly before half-time the military had a good opening, but the shot was taken wildly and went wide of the desired haven. Hostilities being resumed, the Company kept further up toward their opponents' posts and seemed to give great anxiety, but Slade and Oliver showed that they were as good on the defensive as on the aggressive; but it was fortunate that the Club at this critical time escaped intact, as the Army's Captain by judicious passing, on two occasions, placed the ball in such a position that had it been shot with moderate coolness and accuracy, it must have gone under the bar. However, on each occasion, it was shot unpardonably wide and all advantage was thereby lost. Firth now rallied his men and excellent play was witnessed throughout the forward line. In one of these attacks the military were forced to concede a corner. The kick was taken by Arnould, who placed it with excellent judgment, so that it seemed likely to drop about six yards in front of goal; Firth, however, had his eye upon it, and with most commendable judgment and accuracy sent the ball from his

head into the net in a way that completely baffled the Army custodian. Again the Army rallied and endeavoured to save themselves from defeat, but their inaccurate shooting told against them and all efforts were fruitless. The shooting on both sides was by no means good, but it being yet early in the season considerable improvement will undoubtedly be witnessed. The Army played hard right up to the end, but finally had to leave the ground defeated by one goal to nil.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The Long Range Cup was shot for by eleven members last Saturday, the winner being Mr. J. Andrew. The Spoons were taken by Capt. Ferguson and Lieut. Webber, R.E. The following were the best scores:—

	800 yds.	900 yds.	Handicap.	Total.
J. Andrew	40	28	16	84
Captain Ferguson	42	38	—	80
Lieut. Webber, R.E.	40	36	4	80
Private Gigg, R.B.	32	29	16	77
V. Deas	35	24	18	77

CRICKET.

OFFICERS RIFLE BRIGADE v. OFFICERS OF THE GARRISON.

This match was played on Thursday and resulted in a draw. It is a pity there was not time to play it out, as the finish must have been exciting. For the Rifle Brigade Captain Eccles knocked up his 116 quickly and in a free style, Mr. Percival making a very useful 28. Messrs. Campbell and Davies for the Garrison played in good style. The fielding was not as good as could be wished, particularly during the innings of the Garrison. But these things mend as the season goes on. Score:—

RIFLE BRIGADE.	
Cap. Ferguson, c sub b Carter	14
Mr. C. Percival, b Carter	28
Mr. G. L. Lyaley, c Davis, b Carter	0
Mr. L. Sanderson, b Davies	1
Capt. Eccles, b Westcott	116
Mr. R. Alexander, b Vallings	10
Mr. G. Paley, b Carter	3
Lord C. Conyngham, b Davies	1
Capt. Radclyffe, c Campbell, b Davies	5
Capt. Bethune, b Westcott	2
Mr. W. A. W. Digby, not out	6
Extras	7

Total 193

GARRISON.	
G. D. Campbell, H.K.R., c and b Sanderson	61
W. M. Thompson, R.E., run out	6
Surgeon-Major Reade, b Alexander	10
P. G. Davies, R.A., lbw Eccles	38
Rev. H. Vallings, not out	24
Capt. Loveband, A.D.C., lbw Lyaley	14
Col. Clarke, O.S.D., c Paley, b Alexander	2
Capt. Carter, A.P.D., c Percival, b Alexander	1
Capt. Gould-Adams, R.A., c Eccles, b Alexander	0
Surgeon-Major Westcott, b Alexander	20
W. H. Carey, R.A., not out	9
Extras	14

Total 177

COMMERCE v. PROFESSIONS.

This match was played on Saturday. The following is the score:—

COMMERCE.	
A. S. Anton, c Ellis, b Elliot	7
E. W. Maitland, c Platt, b Vallings	9
H. Arthur, c Campbell, b Ellis	21
C. M. Firth, c Vallings, b Ellis	24
F. Maitland, b Elliot	31
J. R. Gillingham, b Powell	57
E. Mast, b Powell	3
E. S. Ezekiel, c Platt, b Ellis	44
A. Anderson, b Campbell	2
O. Stewart, c Powell, b Campbell	1
G. Grimble, not out	9
Extras	9

Total 212

PROFESSIONS.	
E. A. Ram, c Arthur, b E. W. Maitland	8
G. D. Campbell, c Anderson, b E. W. Maitland	33
C. G. Platt, lbw, b Firth	6
W. C. Morcom, c Stewart, b E. W. Maitland	9
E. C. Ellis, b E. W. Maitland	43
Rev. G. Vallings, b Firth	17
K. W. Mounsey, c Arthur, b Firth	0
S. Powell, b Firth	20
Dr. Atkins, not out	33
H. M. C. Elliot, b Firth	11
T. Sercombe Smith, c Anderson, b E. W. Maitland	2
Extras	9

Total 189

The old Fung-yü property, at the corner of the Bund and the Yangkingpang, Shanghai, has been sold by the Shanghai Land Investment Co., Limited, for Tls. 167,500, a large advance on the price at which it changed hands last.

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

CRICKET.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—I think this a very good time to make a few remarks on the general slackness that now seems to prevail amongst the players of the grand old game of cricket. When I say that we are as bad in this colony as anywhere, I don't fancy any one will disagree with me. Let us for a moment consider the way in which a match is played now-a-days. We will say that the match is arranged to begin at 11 a.m. Very well. You go on to the ground at 11 a.m., and what do you find? A few dirty Chinese children, a few dogs, and yourself. At about 11.30 a.m. perhaps five of one side and six of the other have managed to drag themselves down to the ground, and at 11.45 a.m. it is decided to make a start; the fielding side go out, with, say, five players and six ground coolies. Probably at least two of the absentees are bowlers. This is a pleasing spectacle to a lover of cricket. The remainder of the fielding eleven turn up by slow degrees, perhaps the last arriving in time for lunch and his innings in the afternoon. This is cricket! No one thinks it necessary to apologize or assign any cause for being late—not a bit. I really believe that most men come late on purpose. Anyway, a man said to me the other day, "What is the good of being in time when you know all the others will be late? and besides there are always those coolies to field for a fellow, don't you know?" "Good old sport" I thought, but I only grunted. What can you say to a man like that. The match yesterday, R.B. v. Garrison, brought home to me very forcibly how slack cricket is becoming. The Garrison turned out to field at about 11 a.m. (advertised time 10 a.m.) with five men and six coolies. By degrees, and very much by degrees, the others came. I noticed one "officer," whose military duties do not lie in force of arms, saunter on the ground at about 11.45 a.m., nearly two hours late, as if he had still half an hour to spare. Do such people ever consider that they are spoiling every one else's pleasure? If you play at all, why on earth can't you play properly? I don't call coming to lunch and taking an innings playing cricket—and I don't suppose any one else does either. Well! to continue: at lunch time the R.B. were all out for 193 and this, allowing forty minutes for lunch, left from 1.40 p.m. to 4 p.m. (the hour at which stumps were to be drawn) for the Garrison to win or lose. On the R.B. taking the field it is discovered that their fast bowler and the wicket-keeper are absent. Where are they? Oh! gone to a lunch party!! "D—." Delay of five or ten minutes. Very sorry! M' yes!!! The result of all this is that at 3.55 p.m. there is one wicket to fall or 16 runs to get and only five minutes to do it in. Of course a draw is the end of it, and although every one said it was a ripping game it was not cricket as it ought to be. Then, again, why cannot players provide themselves with shoes in which they can stand up? I noticed yesterday that whenever a ball came in the way of a certain noble participator of the game, he invariably either received it sitting, or sat down when trying to start, and the ball passed by and a four was the result. What we want is a good example shown by the leading local cricketers and a certain amount of gentle admonition for lateness, and then we shall get cricket which will be a pleasure to watch and a treat to join in. "Whatever you do, do it as hard as you can" is an excellent motto for a young cricketer. Apologising for the length of my letter.—I remain, sir, yours faithfully,

"A LOVER OF THE GAME."

Hongkong, 18th October, 1895.

The flags of the *Tehhsing* and some other vessels in port at Shanghai were at half-mast on the 18th inst. owing to the death of Mr. O. H. Arnott, chief officer of the *Tehhsing*. Mr. Arnott was returning to his ship and had just got on board when he fell down dead in his room. The sad event was the result of fatty degeneration of the heart.

THE INTERPORT CRICKET MATCHES AT YOKOHAMA.

A telegram was received by the Shanghai Cricket Club on the 14th inst. from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. A. C. Platt, giving the following satisfactory details of the progress of the cricket match at Yokohama:—

Shanghai 254; Yokohama 20 no wickets.

R. C. Farbridge, hit w.	33
A. E. Lanning, b.	46
A. P. Wood, c.	12
R. Sale-Hill, l.b.w.	14
J. U. Buchanan, b.	18
W. B. Cheetham, b.	24
W. A. C. Platt, c.	41
R. Macgregor, st.	11
W. F. Inglis, run out.	4
E. P. Wickham, not out	43
H. Adams, st.	2
Extras	6

254

On the 16th inst. the following telegram was received:—Rained all day; match drawn.

KOBE v. SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, 17th October.

Last evening a telegram was received by the S.C.C. from Yokohama giving the following particulars of the cricket match between Kobe and Shanghai:—

SHANGHAI.

A. E. Lanning, caught	0
R. C. Farbridge, bowled	7
A. P. Wood, bowled	0
J. U. Buchanan, bowled	11
W. B. Cheetham, caught	0
W. A. C. Platt, bowled	4
R. Sale-Hill, bowled	3
E. P. Wickham, l.b.w.	11
R. Macgregor, caught	18
W. F. Inglis, bowled	0
H. Adams, not out	3
Extras	8

65

Kobe—246 for seven wickets.

Shanghai, 18th October.

The following telegram was received from Mr. Platt at Yokohama by the S.C.C. last evening:—

"Kobe, 279 for seven wickets. Duff 103, not out. Innings closed."

Shanghai, 19th October.

The following telegram has been received by the S.C.C. from Mr. Platt, at Yokohama:—

Shanghai—Second Innings.

A. E. Lanning, caught	8
J. U. Buchanan, caught	23
W. A. C. Platt, bowled	0
R. Sale-Hill, l.b.w.	12
R. C. Farbridge, bowled	0
A. P. Wood, caught	0
E. P. Wickham, bowled	0
W. B. Cheetham, caught	12
R. Macgregor, caught	16
W. F. Inglis, caught	1
H. Adams, not-out	0
Extras	17

89

Thus Kobe won the match by an innings and 125 runs.

THE FLOATING OF THE "BELGIC."

Yokohama, 11th October.

The O. & O. steamer *Belgic* floated yesterday as the result of the operations carried on under the superintendence of Captain Forbes, assisted by Captain Hardy. The vessel arrived at Yokosuka at 4.30 yesterday afternoon and was moored at the outer anchorage within the harbour in 9½ fathoms of water, pending further arrangements. In spite of the very high sea which was experienced during the latter part of the salving operations, when damage might have been expected, the ship does not seem to have suffered much beyond what was previously reported. The commencement of the swell which helped to bring the ship off was the back-wash of the prevailing N.E. wind. This set in between four or five

o'clock on Wednesday afternoon. The sea was moderate during the night, not being sufficient to move the vessel; but at three o'clock in the morning it was apparent that there was a strong incoming swell. This continued to increase, and about five o'clock work at the winches was commenced and kept up till eight o'clock. Up to that time no attempt had been made to take up the anchors. At noon a rapid movement was apparent, and the vessel floated at 1.40, after she had been subjected to considerable buffeting by the high seas. It was hoped that the wires, chains, and anchors laid down for the purpose of heaving the ship off would be recovered, but to attempt this was not considered safe, owing to the heavy swell and the close proximity of the vessel to the land. All except the heaving-off wire, which was the furthest out, were therefore slipped with much reluctance, seeing that their recovery subsequently will involve so much trouble. This, however, could not be helped, as the ship had either to be got into deeper water or lost. Captain Forbes returned to Yokohama this morning. Captain Hardy came up last evening, but has gone back to Yokosuka, where he was to examine the ship's bottom to-day.

Captain Walker brought the *Belgic* out from Belfast, where she was built, ten years ago, and has been in charge of her since. He has always held the reputation of being a most careful navigator, and much sympathy will be felt for him in his present position.—*Japan Gazette*.

Mr. Van Buren, Agent of the O. & O. Company, informs us that the steamer *Belgic* will be temporarily repaired to enable her to proceed to Hongkong, where the permanent repairs will be made. She will probably leave Yokohama for this port on 30th October.

ANARCHY IN KOREA.

THE TAI WON KUN ATTACKS THE PALACE.

REPORTED MURDER OF THE QUEEN.

Kobe, 9th October.

The accuracy of our statement in Monday's issue that virtual anarchy prevailed in Korea now that the Japanese had adopted a policy of *laissez faire* towards that country has been quickly proved. Telegrams reached Japan yesterday to the effect that Seoul was once more the scene of a revolution. The information is as yet meagre and conflicting, but it appears that about three o'clock on Monday afternoon the Tai Won Kun, father of the King and one of the greatest schemers in the country, proceeded to the palace with a body of Korean soldiers and endeavoured to effect an entrance, with a view, it is supposed, of securing the person of the King. His entrance was resisted by the King's guard, and some fighting took place, in the course of which the commander of the Tai Won Kun's force was killed.

On hearing the firing the Japanese Minister, Viscount Miura, proceeded to the palace, and upon his arrival at the gates becoming known firing ceased, and he and the Tai Won Kun entered the palace together. Further details of what took place are as yet wanting.

The Queen has fled and her whereabouts are unknown. Some reports state that it is possible her Majesty has been murdered, as the latest revolt appears to be directed against her influence in the Court, and with the object of raising the Tai Won Kun to power.

A hurried council was called at headquarters in Tokyo yesterday, and orders were issued to send two men-of-war from Port Arthur to Chemulpo for the protection of the Japanese residents.

Frequent telegrams are reaching the Government, but their purport is of course kept secret.

Kobe, 10th October.

News from Seoul is still very meagre, but it appears clear that the Tai Won Kun has succeeded in securing control of the palace and of the person of the King. The palace guards have fled, and the disbanded soldiers composing the force of the Tai Won Kun in his assault on the palace have taken their place. The Japanese soldiers who formed the escort of the

Japanese Minister in his visit to the palace have now returned to their camp.

The King has issued an edict ordering that there shall be a strict line of demarcation between the Ministry and the officials of the Royal palace. The Tai Won Kun will attend to all affairs connected with the Royal household.

The customary change in Ministers has taken place, and as the result of a fresh deal of the cards several ex-Ministers have been recalled to office. Viscount Miura is reported to be in consultation with the Ministers regarding the future.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

THE KING'S PROCLAMATION.

Seoul, 11th October.

The King's decree dethroning the Queen has been issued. It runs as follows:—

During Our reign of thirty-two years, and while the people had not yet fully enjoyed the benefit of Our regime, Our Queen of the Min family resorted to all the evil means of nepotism, blinded Our intelligence, extorted Our people, set at nought all Our laws and orders, sold offices and titles, and thereby caused disturbances everywhere, endangering the existence of Our family. We knew the extreme vices of Our Queen, but allowed her to remain unpunished. Though this is due to Our lack of intelligence, the nepotism which had caused the Queen's partisans to fill Our Court was largely accountable for the impunity she has enjoyed. In order to restrain her influence, We swore at the altar of Our Ancestors in the twelfth month last year not to allow the Queen or other mistresses of the Court and their relations to interfere in the affairs of State, trusting the Queen to repent the wrongs she had done in the past. But the Queen still did not correct herself; she continued to call her relations and numerous mean partisans to the Court, to estrange Us from Our own relations, and to restrain Us from personally seeing the Ministers of State. Recently she forged Our command to disband Our troops, thereby causing a serious disturbance, and when the disturbance had broken out she left Us and sought her own safety somewhere, as she had done in 1882, and did not come out when wanted. All this being not worthy of her rank and title and showing her extreme vices, We are forced hereby to dethrone her, Our Queen of the Min family, following the examples set by Our predecessors.

HONGKONG.

The lawyers have had a busy time during the past week, several cases of interest having been decided at the Supreme Court. The Criminal Sessions were held on Friday. Three concerts have been given, and at two of them Chevalier de Kontski gave a pianoforte recital. On Saturday a meeting of the Canton Insurance Company was held, and the members of the Jockey Club also held their annual meeting. On Monday an extraordinary general meeting of the Douglas Steamship Company was held, and in the afternoon of the same day the supporters of the Hongkong Public Library met in the City Hall. The liability of marine store dealers led to an interesting argument at the Police Court on Tuesday, and yesterday an opium appeal case was disposed of.

H.M.S. *Daphne* arrived on Thursday from Swatow.

The Regatta is to be held on the 12th and 13th December. Captains and crews for the Chairman's Challenge Cup will be picked on the 28th inst.

An address to the Hon. T. H. Whitehead thanking him for the services he rendered to the colony during his recent visit to England is now being signed.

The Volunteer Corps went into camp at Stonecutters' Island on Friday night. Large mat sheds have been erected for their accommodation. The camp will break up on Sunday next.

Mr. C. F. A. Sangster, Acting Registrar of the Supreme Court, was on Tuesday presented with a handsome service of silver plate by the staff of the Registry, as a mark of their regard on his retirement from the service. The presentation was made by Mr. F. A. Hazeland.

The appointment of Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, B.A., LL.B., barrister-at-law, to be Acting Police Magistrate during the absence from the colony of the Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, C.M.G., is gazetted.

The Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, Police Magistrate, left for home the 16th inst. by the M. M. steamer *Melbourne*, on leave of absence. Mr. T. Sercombe Smith took over the duties of Acting Police Magistrate on the same day.

We hear through a private correspondent in England that the King's Own Regiment was to leave Portsmouth on the 24th September for Malta and after putting in a term of service there is to come to Hongkong to relieve the Rifle Brigade.

A private in the Hongkong Regiment tried to shoot himself on Friday evening. He loaded his rifle all right, put the muzzle near his heart, pulled the trigger, and then fell down. But there will be no inquest, as the bullet simply tore part of his clothing away.

Fears are entertained for the safety of the steamer *Utan*, which left Hongkong for Nagasaki on the 14th ult., and has not since been heard of. The *Utan* was a small wooden vessel which had recently been sold by a Singapore firm to the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

The British steamer *Sishan*, Capt. Murphy, reports that whilst on the voyage from Swatow to Saigon in lat. 19.55 N., long. 114 E., she sighted a dismantled junk, and bore down on her and picked off the crew of ten Chinese in a very exhausted condition. They hailed from Chin-chu and had been adrift for eight days, having been caught in the typhoon on the 26th ult., when the junk had been completely gutted out. When rescued they had been three days without water, and could not have survived many days. They were kindly taken care of by Captain Murphy and on arrival in Saigon Messrs. Ban Soon An, Messrs. Bradley & Co.'s agents, raised a subscription amongst the resident Chinese, which will enable them to be forwarded to their homes. They are at present on board the *Sishan* and will probably be sent on from Hongkong. The junk was set on fire and scuttled.

There was a disturbance in Queen's Road Central on Sunday night between four Japanese, who had come off a ship, and some Chinese coolies. The Japanese had bought some boxes which a number of coolies wanted to carry, but they demanded too much money. The Japanese told them to go to Taipingshan or some other place, whereat the coolies became angry and threatening. The Japanese went away followed by the coolies, whose numbers quickly swelled, and some commotion was caused. The noise was soon over, however; no one was injured, and no one was arrested. An Indian constable, who was on duty at the time, became so alarmed that he rushed up to the Police Station and gave an exaggerated account of the occurrence. Fourteen constables turned out, but everything was quiet when they got to Queen's Road. The Indian constable got into trouble for giving a false report.

On Thursday afternoon the scholars of the Belilios Public School were entertained by the Hon. E. R. and Mrs. Belilios at their Peak residence. The Tramway Company, by their agent, Mr. Wylie, generously conveyed the children to and fro. After a sumptuous tea in the house, they amused themselves in the grounds with the ancient and modern means of recreation so amply provided there, the local imitation of the Andley Court wheel proving an unceasing attraction. So infectious was the happiness with which the youngsters brimmed over, that two well-known residents forgot their age and dignity and tested their relative weight by a game at see-saw. At the conclusion of the festivities, the Attorney-General, the Hon. W. M. Goodman, elicited, by a humorous speech, frequently interrupted by spontaneous bursts of approval on the part of the children, a succession of rousing cheers for the generous host and hostess, and for Mrs. Bateman, the Head Mistress. Mr. Belilios, in responding to the Attorney-General's eulogy, mentioned that he contemplated making yet further efforts to promote the interests of education in the colony. On departing, all present were presented with a pretty souvenir, which, no doubt, will be treasured by the children as a remembrance of one of the red-letter days in their lives.

The Spanish cruiser *Don Juan de Austria*, which arrived on the 16th inst. from Manila, brought back the European foremen and Chinese workmen, who were sent over by the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company to fit up the gunboats *Lanao* and *General Blanco* in the Lake Lanao in Mindanao.

It is proposed to present a piece of plate to Lieut.-Colonel Barrow on his departure from the colony and a similar piece of plate to be designated "The Barrow Plate" to the Regimental Mess, in commemoration of Colonel Barrow's connection with the colony and the Regiment which was raised by him and of which he has been the first Commandant.

Two amusing excuses were urged at the Police Court on Saturday. A hawker charged with exposing tainted food for sale said, "I didn't expose it for sale; I exposed it for people to look at." A coolie who was charged with being in unlawful possession of a bar of soap said, "I bought it from a shop, and the shopkeeper told me to put it up my sleeve so that policemen might not see it." Both men were sent to gaol.

About eleven o'clock on Tuesday night (15th inst.) a fire broke out in the cook-house of No. 149, Queen's Road Central, which is occupied as an oil shop on the ground floor and by the Yung Cheong photographer's shop on the upper floor. The Fire Brigade was quickly on the spot and fortunately the fire was put out by a couple of extinguishers before it had obtained any hold on the building. The premises are insured with Messrs. Siemssen and Co., but the damage was inconsiderable.

There was a large attendance at the Happy Valley on Saturday afternoon when two racing events were decided. The first was between Captain Loveband's *The Friar* and Mr. W. D. Graham's *Baccarat*, owners up. The distance was five furlongs over hurdles. *Baccarat* fell at the first hurdle and his rider was dismounted, but happily he was not hurt. Mr. Graham quickly remounted and overtook Captain Loveband, who had pulled up. The remainder of the hurdles were well taken, and a good race home resulted in *The Friar* winning by a neck. The second match was between Mr. Manners' Australian mare *Australia* and Mr. Hart Buck's *Voltigeur*. Lieut.-Colonel The O'Gorman rode *Australia*, and Mr. Buck rode *Voltigeur*. The start was from the rock, once round and in. The race was a capital one. On passing the post for the first time *Voltigeur* was leading, although *Australia* had caught him up at the bend. *Voltigeur* maintained a long lead for a considerable distance, and at the bend *Australia* again came up with *Voltigeur*, who was beaten after an exciting run by three-quarters of a length. *Australia* took the hurdles in fine style and was greeted with much applause on returning to the enclosure.

In the *Manila Government Gazette* there appears the following notification dated the 7th October:—Having regard to the favourable notices transmitted by the Spanish Consuls at Hongkong and Amoy with reference to the bubonic plague, whose epidemic character may be considered to have disappeared, there having been registered in Hongkong a total number of twenty-nine cases and twenty-six deaths since the 26th April last, and no case having occurred at Amoy since the 9th August; considering, however, the convenience of maintaining the precautions adopted against the introduction of cholera, which although greatly decreasing still exists in various ports of the China Sea and in Japan and Formosa, arrivals from which are admitted at Hongkong and Amoy without the sanitary precautions prescribed by our laws; in agreement with the Civil Government and on the recommendation of the Sanitary Department, it is deemed convenient to modify the provisions of the decrees of the 1st May and 9th August last in the following manner: Vessels arriving from Hongkong and Amoy without sickness on board and not having had any on the voyage, which have put to sea since the 20th September last without Chinese immigrants as passengers, shall be subject to a quarantine of observation of three days, and of five days if they carry passengers of the class mentioned, and shall be disinfected as the Sanitary Authorities of the ports may deem advisable. Quarantine against arrivals from Singapore has also been reduced to five days.

A marriage boat caught fire early on Monday morning at Yaumati. P.C. Ashmore, of the Water Police, was the first to see the flames, and he at once conveyed information to the station. Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings and a number of police officers promptly turned out, and the fire was soon extinguished by means of hand pumps. The damage done was not very considerable, and it is fortunate that no other boats caught fire.

A very enjoyable smoking concert was given at the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong on Saturday evening. The room was packed. An excellent programme had been arranged, and each of the items was given in a praiseworthy manner. Mr. R. Cooke presided. The following gentlemen contributed towards the harmony of the evening:—Messrs. Gilchrist, J. B. Duncan, J. R. Mudie, G. M. McDonald, Crispin, H. B. Bridger, J. W. Kinghorn, and Andrews. Mr. Tyndall-Lea acted as pianist throughout the evening and gave every satisfaction.

The Registrar-General's returns of births and deaths for the third quarter of the present year show that the birth-rate for the British and foreign community was 22.85 and the death rate 20.27. For the Chinese population the birth-rate was 5.27 and the death-rate 24.11.

On Saturday morning Mr. C. F. A. Sangster, the Acting Registrar of the Supreme Court, was presented by the solicitors of the court with a bank draft as a mark of their personal esteem and in recognition of his services in the Registry. The presentation was made by Mr. Victor H. Deacon. Mr. Sangster leaves for home by the English mail steamer on Thursday next.

Two twelve pounders will in future be used at Gap Rock lighthouse for signalling purposes. Hitherto fog alarms have been given by means of detonators, tomite being the powder used, and although a charge makes a tremendous noise the sound does not carry very far. The firing of a gun has been proved to be far superior as an alarm, and so it was decided to purchase a couple of guns for Gap Rock. They have had rather a curious history. They were made in England and used for a considerable time in the navy. By some means they eventually got into the hands of Macao pirates, and some time ago the guns were taken from a pirate boat off the coast of China and brought to Hongkong. Lately the Public Works Department decided to purchase the guns for Gap Rock. They have been put to the severest tests, which have proved satisfactory. During foggy weather an alarm will be given every ten minutes, and it has been decided to keep in store at the Gap Rock seven hundred rounds—2,100 lbs. of powder altogether.

On the 16th inst. a number of ladies and gentlemen, including his Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, assembled at the Happy Valley to witness the race between Mr. Manners' Australian mare, Australia, Mr. Hart Buck's Voltigeur, and Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving's Daylight. The mare gave the China ponies the rails, and in the draw Mr. Buck won the best position. Mr. Buck rode Voltigeur, Mr. Master Daylight, and Mr. Cruickshank Australia. The ponies started from the half mile post and were got away at the first fall of the flag. They kept closely together until passing the village, when Daylight dropped in the rear. Turning the bend Australia and Voltigeur were coming along very strongly, and for a considerable distance along the straight they ran neck and neck together. About thirty yards from the post Australia came to the front with an easy bound and passed the judge a little over a length in front of Voltigeur. Daylight was five lengths behind. The winner was loudly applauded, and the race was in every respect a capital one. The time was 60½ secs.

Mr. Alexander Bielfeld, whose death occurred at Yokohama on the 16th inst., was an old resident of Shanghai. He came out, we learn from the *N. C. Daily News*, to Messrs. Wm. Pustau & Co. in 1859, and went up to Chefoo in 1869, where he was at one time in charge of the Family Hotel. He finally settled in Shanghai as a broker and auctioneer twenty years ago, and made himself a very familiar figure in the life of the port.

TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

4th October.

Lo Feng Loh four days ago was summoned to Peking to assist in negotiating the Supplementary Treaties with Japan. The dead-set against Li Hung-chang was carried so far as to oust him from this negotiation, but *faute de mieux* he is reappointed. The Tsungli Yamen has been so badgered with ultimatums over the Chengtu and Kucheng villainies that there is a complete scare in Peking officialdom re foreign affairs. The Tsungli Yamen to a man pleaded illness when called upon to take up the Treaty negotiation: Oong Tung H'o, the late Imperial tutor, and now the ruling spirit in Peking, angrily refused to have anything to do with it. This arrogant pedant is doing infinite harm by his anti-foreign and truculent attitude. Li after his recent experience naturally tried to quit himself of the danger, and also pleaded sickness, but seeing that the position was rapidly becoming farcical and derogatory to the dignity of the Government he consented to serve. As the main commercial concessions were embodied in the Shimonoseki Treaty it is not anticipated that beyond tariffs and fiscal modifications the new Treaty will embody much that is novel. The Inspector-General and his staff will probably have the biggest say on the Chinese side.

Locally there is little to interest Hongkong readers. Great municipal activity obtains in the port. This week our city fathers discussed and approved a comprehensive scheme for a Public Recreation Ground, involving the gift of some twelve acres of land and an additional expense of fifteen thousand taels.

Training is in full swing. The autumnal griffins promise to be the best of recent years. The Races are fixed for October 28th, 29th, and 30th, when the local jocks hope to be reinforced by Lieut. Taylor, of Hongkong. This gentleman's finished riding two years ago was a valuable object lesson to our young erudites.

The American Chengtu Commission starts this week overland for Szechuen. Consul Read is accompanied by Captain Merrill, U.S.N., and Mr. Cheshire, of the Legation. After the usual evasion and higgling the Tsungli Yamen has supplied a cavalry escort of twenty men. The extraordinary procedure of the Washington Department in sending its Commission a thousand miles' dangerous land journey instead of via the Yangtze cannot be explained, except on the ground that the Chinese wanted the Commission to go by the river, and Uncle Sam, to show that his back was up, thereupon struck for the other route.

It is currently reported both in Peking and Tientsin circles (native and foreign) that Sir Nicholas O'Connor delivered an ultimatum on the Chengtu and Kucheng villainies, that only at the last moment did the Chinese yield; that the presence of the *Æolus*, *Spartan*, and *Pique* at Nanking and the urgent despatch of gunboats to the out-ports last week were preliminary measures to prompt naval action.

The telegraphic announcement of Viceroy Liu's lasting degradation bears out this report. It is also hinted that if the Kucheng investigation hangs fire we may expect a naval mobilization in Fukien. At any rate, the diplomatic crisis is over, for Sir Nicholas was able to run down to Tientsin for two days to meet his wife. He expects to leave Peking for good within two months. Mr. Howard's name is the most frequently mentioned as his probable successor.

Mr. C. D. Tenney, of this port, is now in Hongkong beating up recruits for the last educational departure, the Tientsin University. The preparatory school of the new institution will number ninety, the higher class thirty. The latter will necessarily be English-speaking youths. The students are all to be "foundation scholars," that is, they will be boarded and educated gratuitously, to say nothing about a small extra salary. Mr. Tenney's colleagues in the directorate are Southerners, so that Hongkong will probably show well up in the Institution. It could not be in better hands. Mr. Tenney is a thoroughly practical man of wide sympathies, a *persona grata* to foreigners and Chinese alike.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The furnace and nearly all the appliances for the new Municipal Crematorium have arrived in Shanghai from England.

According to a Madrid telegram to the *Comercio*, the proposed increase of the capital of the Banco Espanol Filipino and the renewal of the Bank's charter have been approved.

We observe that a paragraph is going the rounds of the papers recording the "discovery of copper in Japan." Japan copper has been a regular article of export almost ever since the opening of the country to foreign trade.

At the Shanghai Autumn Regatta on the 15th inst. the International Eight was won by the English, by two lengths, from the Germans, who were the only other competitors. The international fours on the second day were also won by the English.

An illegal levy of ten cents per case on kerosine oil has been imposed at Foochow, the right of collection having been farmed out for \$8,000 a year. The levy is imposed on oil sent to the inland markets under transit pass as well as on that sent under lekin certificate.

The death is reported on the 6th instant in the native city at Shanghai of Mr. Sung, late acting magistrate of the Mixed Court. While in office, the *N. C. Daily News* says, Mr. Sung won the respect of both foreigners and natives by his integrity and the painstaking manner in which he discharged his duties. At the time of his death Mr. Sung was Vice-Commissioner of the Land Registration and Survey Office in the native city.

From a private letter just received from Foochow, the *Peking and Tientsin Times* learns that two or three days before the Kucheng massacre Mr. Stewart was visited by one of the leaders of the Vegetarians, who brought presents for the children and had tea with the family. He enquired from Mr. Stewart whether he could lend him a gun as he was desirous of setting out after tigers which were giving trouble in some near neighbourhood. It is now supposed that he was spying out the situation of the houses, and satisfying himself that the missionaries had no firearms.

Huang, Taotai of Shanghai, left that port early on the morning of the 8th inst. in rather an unexpected manner for Nanking by the Chinese gunboat *Chünho*, having been telegraphed for by the Viceroy Chang. As chief civil magistrate with military powers and head of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs in that part of Kiangsu, Hung Taotai's superiors, the *N. C. Daily News* says, expect him to keep them informed of the naval movements of Western Powers in these parts. He, however, appears to have given no intimation of the approach of the British fleet into the Yangtze, and this, according to native report, is the reason why he has been telegraphed for so hastily by the Nanking Viceroy.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* has a high appreciation of the British Minister. It says:—Diplomatic policy has the same properties as the chemical substance which dissolves all other metals but preserves the gold. In the politics of narrower circles we may find political underlings as leaders, but this is impossible in the diplomatic circles, which unmercifully reject the inferior spirits but become a true field for political genius and talent. Sir Nicholas O'Connor, the British Minister in Peking, is a true and grand diplomatist. His training is perfect, his knowledge of the world deep, his will is firm, and his heart is kind. The peculiar stamp of manliness which characterises the free British nation is typically manifest in his attractive individuality. His great political victory is, that he has impressed on China that England wishes to lift her up from atrocious barbarism without crushing her or making her a slave. It is best for China that she learns that her outrages are against the heart and laws of civilised humanity, and that she can only exist among other nations by respecting their citizens and their rights. The universal sentiment in Peking indicates how wisely and with what great tact Sir Nicholas has acted; there is no resentment on account of his political action, but a genuine feeling that "Right" has been done, and "Right" alone.

The *China Gazette* of the 11th inst. says:—Prior to Admiral Buller's departure for Nanking last week affairs between England and China had assumed such a threatening aspect that the big cruiser *Edgar*, outside of Woosung Spit Buoy, had completely stripped for action. Every bit of moveable woodwork was cleared away, down to the boats swinging in the davits, which were the only vulnerable objects about the ship not removed to a place of safety. The preparations for immediate action were so complete that the *Edgar* could have fired a broadside, and her broadside is a pretty big one too, at ten seconds' notice.

It is with great regret that we (*N. C. Daily News*) have to announce the sudden death from heart disease on the 11th inst. of Mr. Claude A. Rees, at the age of 53. He had been ailing during the last few days, but a fatal result to his indisposition was entirely unexpected. Mr. Rees was an old and very well-known resident in Shanghai, the celebrated Teenkwang, which won the Champions at the Spring and Autumn meetings in 1875, having been his pony. He was for many years one of the leading silkmen, but had lately occupied himself with bill-broking. He leaves a widow, with whom the very deepest sympathy is felt.

Mr. J. Wright, third engineer of the blue-funnel steamer *Sarpedon*, died in the General Hospital at Shanghai on the 11th inst. The *N. C. Daily News* says he was turning on the steam in the pipe on deck connected with one of the winches on the 5th inst. when the valve blew out, the steam scalding him fearfully, and the force of the explosion throwing him across the open hatch into the 'tween decks. He was able to get up and call for assistance, and on the steamer's arrival at Shanghai on the 6th he was taken to the Hospital, but all the care that was given him was unavailing. He was only 25 years old, and was very popular with his shipmates.

The Chinese version of the abortive visit of the British Admiral to Nanking, says the *China Gazette*, is quite characteristic of a race which hangs on with grim faith to puerilities and lives upon the patent of a fraudulent past. The British Admiral, according to the voracious native chronicler, went up to Nanking to see if he could not sell his ships to Chang Chih-tung, and that old gentleman being in a bad humour that particular day sent him a message that he was too busy just then to think of ships of war, and the Admiral being greatly in want of ready money proceeded forthwith up the river to try if he could not find a more likely market. He is now taking the ships to Foochow to sell. Thus is history writ in the Middle Kingdom.

The Wenchow correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* gives the following account of the accident to the *Kwangchi*:—She bumped on an unmarked and covered rock near Montagu about 8.30 on the evening of the 5th. There was a swell on at the time, and it seems likely that she touched the rock while in the hollow between two waves, for she lifted right off at once and seemed none the worse at the time. Evidently, however, the rivets had given way, for she almost immediately began to make water in the stoke hole. Her officers acted with promptitude and found their way in through an unknown and dangerous passage to a spot where she was comfortably beached. In the meantime Mr. Adair, the engineer, together with the only fireman who was willing to remain below, worked up to their waists in water bravely keeping the upper fire going, though the lower one was already under water; another five minutes or less would have put out even this fire and the vessel must have gone down. Under the unfortunate circumstances every praise seems due to the officers and engineer for their prompt and brave conduct. We hear that the chief officer was in charge at the time of the accident, and much sympathy is felt here for him, as he is considered to be a very capable seaman and well versed in the intricacies of this awkward bit of coast.—The *Kwangchi* arrived at Shanghai on the 17th inst. and went to Farnham's lower dock. The vessel came back to Shanghai under her own steam and without accident. The temporary repairs were effected while she was on the beach off Montagu Island and the natives rendered every assistance and were very friendly.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

CANTON, 22nd October.—Macao Congous.—business for the past fortnight consists only of 2,300 boxes at Tls. 10½, 19 per picul, shewing a slightly easier market. No real Fourth Crop Teas have as yet made their appearance and the supply is likely to be very small. Scented Capers.—The fortnight's settlements are reported at 16,000 boxes at Tls. 8/21 per picul, making a total of 250,000 boxes against 215,000 boxes up to the same date last year. Prices have ruled in buyer's favour for all grades except Common, which are steady and in small supply. The estimate for the total export for the season must now be raised to 5½ mils.; there is, however, sufficient leaf in the market to bring it up to 6 mils., but latterly there has been nothing doing (the bulk of the above settlements having been made during the first week of the period under review), and buyers evince no desire to be further interested, so that, unless forced sales are made, we think the remainder of the season will be confined to shipping off.

SHANGHAI, 18th October.—(From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co's circular).—Black Tea.—Clean whole-leaf Tea has been in demand at Tls. 11 to 11½ a picul throughout the interval under review, and it is rumoured that a fair line has been ordered under contract at Tls. 11½ a picul "to arrive." During the past few days there has been rather more business in qualities up to Tls. 15½ a picul, and many of the settlements show better value than has hitherto been obtained this season. Further supplies are expected to be small.

The following settlements are reported:—
Ningchow...3,397 ½-chts. at Tls. 14 to 19½ a pl.
Hohow 891 " " 13.40 to 16½ "
Kutoan 276 " " 15½ to — "
Keemun ... 208 " " 18 to — "
Oonam 4,419 " " 10½ to 15.40 "
Oopack 1,090 " " 11½ to 14.15 "

Total 10,231 ½-chests.
Stock.—20,748 half-chests, against 11,533 half-chests at same date last year.

Green Tea.—Pingsuey.—There is no change to report in these descriptions. Supplies are drawing towards an end. Local Packed.—Several parcels have been shipped on native account, and there is no demand for the chops now on offer. Country Tea.—There has been considerably more movement in this market, though the larger settlements have come about by the greater willingness on the part of Tea-men to accept offers than by any improvement in demand. Prices on the whole have been better maintained than seemed probable, and though the tendency has been downwards the cheaper purchases made during the previous fortnight have not yet been improved on: quotations look lower, but the qualities has materially fallen. "Choice" Teas are scarce and are wanted at full prices.

Settlements reported since 4th instant:—
Pingsuey 12,364 ½-chts. a picul
Moyune 16,558 " 17.00 to 33.50
Tienkai 11,295 " 16.00 to 31.75
Fychow 2,891 " 12.50 to 16.00
Local Packed 2,383 " 13.80 to 16.00

Total 45,891 ½-chts.
Total settlements from opening of the market to date:—
Pingsuey ... 166,348 ½-chts. against 132,948 ½-chts.
Moyune ... 73,253 " 69,135 "
Tienkai ... 57,096 " 46,723 "
Fychow ... 17,728 " 14,933 "
Local P'ked. 19,909 " 13,820 "

Total 334,334 ½-chts. Total 277,559 ½-chts.
Total arrivals to date are:—377,768 half-chests, against 363,757 half-chests to same date last year.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	5,343,781	5,194,960
Foochow	11,175,408	14,357,248
Shanghai and Hankow	16,836,719	16,552,629
	33,355,908	36,104,837

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai	27,040,068	22,555,223

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Amoy	7,967,866	10,395,668
Foochow	6,066,651	4,626,555
Shanghai	23,060,844	20,316,200
	37,115,361	35,338,423

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	26,677,067	25,055,186
Kobe	15,901,783	13,666,790
	42,578,850	38,721,976

SILK.

CANTON, 22nd October.—Tsatees and Re-reels.—Nothing doing. Re-reels, No. 1 Grant is inquired for at \$587½/540 against \$550 asked. For Nos. 1, 2, 3, buyers offer \$15/20 per picul lower than subjoined quotations. Filatures.—The firmness of holders, coupled with the advance in Exchange, has reduced business considerably during the fortnight. Good chops in fine sizes, which were most in favour, have ruled above the reach of buyers and settlements have been chiefly confined to lower grade silks in 11/13, 13/15. We quote \$725 paid for Kwong Shun Cheong 11/13, \$715 for Kwong Lun Fung 9/11, \$705/700 for Kum Lun Cheong and Kwong King Loong 10/12, \$690/685 for Kwong Ho, Wing Hing Lun, and Kum King Cheong 13/15, \$655 for Sun King Lun 10/12, \$6.0/605 for good 3rd class 11/13, 13/15. Short-reels have been in fair inquiry. No. 1 has sold at \$687½/680 in 13/15, 14/16, and Good No. 2 14/16 at \$665. Fair No. 2 at \$645. Third class are almost unobtainable in 14/16, 14/18 den. owing to the coarseness and irregularity in size of the parcels so-called. Waste.—There is a good enquiry for Steam Waste at \$85/65 for Extra No. 1, current qualities. Other sorts are in small demand. Stocks.—Tsatees, 1,500 bales. Filatures, 3,000 bales. We append quotations in Canton, with laying down cost in London and Lyons. Exchange, 6 months' sight, 2/2½ and Fcs. 2.84 per Dollar:—

Tsatees	No. 1	\$495	=	9/2
	No. 2	\$480	=	8/10½
	No. 3	\$465	=	8/7½
	No. 4	\$445	=	8/1¼
	No. 4½	\$430	=	7/11½
	No. 5	\$420	=	7/8½
Filature 1st class	11/13	\$725 to \$715		
1st	13/15	\$725 to \$715		
2nd	9/11	\$725 to \$733		
2nd	10/12	\$700 to \$720		
2nd	13/15	\$680 to \$700		
2nd	10/12	\$680 to \$700		
3rd	11/13	\$625 to \$605		
3rd	13/15	\$625 to \$605		
Re-reel Lack low	No. 1	\$545		
	No. 2	\$530		
	No. 3	\$515		
	No. 4	\$495		
Mahang	No. 1	\$520		
Punjam Books	No. 3 & 4	\$86	=	1/8½
Punjam Waste		\$75	=	1/5½
Steam Waste Extra		\$85	=	1/8
	No. 1	\$65	=	1/3½
Gum Waste	No. 1	\$78	=	1/6½
	No. 2	\$55	=	1/1
Re-reel Waste		\$90	=	1/9
Pierced Cocoons		\$62	=	1/2½
Settlements for the fortnight:—				
	1895-96	1894-95		
For Europe	1,000 bales.	400 bales.		
For America	200 "	280 "		
For Bombay	250 "	170 "		
	[& 75 piculs]	[& 90 piculs]		

SHANGHAI, 17th October.—(From Messrs. Cronie and Burkill's circular).—London telegrams to the 15th inst. report the market steady. Blue El-phants 10/9. Raw Silk.—The large business which has been going on of late has partially come to an end. Business done has been on a moderate scale, and settlements reach about 1,000 bales. The laying down cost has been somewhat enhanced by a rise in exchange. Tsatees.—About 500 bales have changed hands, and prices show no material change on last week's rates. Tay-sams.—Remain quiet at the quotations given below. Yellow Silks.—The demand continues on a fair scale, both for India and the Continent, Mienyangs and Fooyungs attracting most attention. Prices show no advance on last week's rates, but the market is firm. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns from the 10th to the 16th inst., are 1,887 bales of White, 495 bales of Yellow

and 189 bales of Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—Small business doing in Filatures of market grades. Re-reels remain neglected. Wild Silks.—Prices of Tusah Raws remain unchanged with a small business doing. Waste Silk.—Has gone quiet again, but holders do not seem disposed to accept lower rates. Pongees.—No business to report, except 3,000 pieces Shantung Pongees 24/25 inches, 28 oz., at Tls. 2.65 per pieces.

Purchases include:—Tsatlees.—Blue Elephant at Tls. 427½, Gold Killing at Tls. 352½. Yellow Silk.—Shantung Skeins, Gold Buffalo 1 at Tls. 330, do. Gold Almond Flower 2 at Tls. 282½, Mienschow at Tls. 238½ to Tls. 260, Kopun at Tls. 240 to Tls. 215, Meeyang at Tls. 225 to Tls. 240, Fooyung at Tls. 202½ to Tls. 215, Wngyi at Tls. 195 to Tls. 200, Wongchow at Tls. 182½, Szechon gat Tls. 168½. Filature.—Blue Globe chop 1 and 2 at Tls. 510 to Tls. 500. Wild Silk.—Tussah Filature Gold Double Bird Chop 8 Cocoons at Tls. 141½.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1895-96	1894-95
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai.....	34,659	19,354
Canton.....	9,301	6,657
Yokohama.....	10,853	8,249
	54,813	34,260

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	bales.	bales.
Canton.....	5,972	3,843
Shanghai.....	4,372	3,027
Yokohama.....	11,739	8,259
	22,083	15,129

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 23rd October.—The upward movement continues. Quotations for Formosa are \$97.00 to \$97.50. During the past week sales have been 130 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 23rd October.—The dullness previously reported continues. Following are the quotations:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.18 to 7.21 per picul.
do. " 2, White...	6.80 to 6.82 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.70 to 4.71 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.57 to 4.59 "
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.15 to 7.20 "
do. " 2, White...	6.74 to 6.78 "
do. " 1, Brown...	4.40 to 4.41 "
Swatow, No. 2, Brown...	4.23 to 4.26 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	10.60 to 11.00 "
Shekloong ".....	9.00 to 9.96 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The O. & S. steamer *Tantalus*, Hongkong to London, 8th October, took:—5,188 boxes Tea, (106,407 lbs. Scented Caper, 2,541 lbs. Scented Orange Pekoe), 905 bales Hemp, 23 cases Cigars, 40 cases Bristles, 37 cases Chinaware, 74 cases Condensed Milk, 11 cases Essential Oil, 1,243 cases Preserves, 610 casks Preserves, 100 casks Soy, 134 bales Pierced Cocoons and 17 packages Sundries.

The German steamer *Frigga*, Hongkong to Fort Said, 11th October, took:—1 case Camphor; for Havre:—1 case Silk, 450 packages Tea, 130 rolls Matting, 6 cases Blackwoodware, 25 cases Bristles, 4 cases Rice Paper, 13 cases Human Hair, 12 cases Paper, and 4 cases China Ink; for Havre option Hamburg:—433 rolls Matting, 50 bales Canes, 15 cases Tea, 5 cases Cassia, and 19 cases Blackwoodware; for Hamburg:—1,250 cases Cassia, 8 cases Blackwoodware, 4 cases Ginger, 1 case Silk, 2 cases Rattanware, 54 packages Canes, 34 cases Bristles, and 14 packages Sundries; for London:—14 cases Essential Oil.

The steamer *Energia*, Hongkong to New York, 13th October, took:—153 packages Tea, 125 casks Preserves, 61 cases Essential Oil, 45 cases Chinaware, 20 cases Vermilion, and 1,815 packages Merchandise.

The German steamer *Karlsruhe*, Hongkong to Europe, 14th October, took:—for Singapore.—315 packages transhipment Cargo, 1 case Valuable, \$4,600; for Colombo.—3 cases Clocks; for Suez.—1 case Silks; for Genoa.—5 rolls Matting, 2 cases Curios; for Antwerp.—32 half-chests Tea, 96 bales Feathers, 54 rolls Matting, 81 bales Bambooware, 100 casks Merchandise, 35 bales Rattanware; for Trieste.—418 half-chests Tea;

for Amsterdam.—6 cases Camphorwood Trunks, 3 cases Chinaware, 189 half-chests Tea, 117 packages Ginger, 64 roll Matting, 3 cases Sundries; for Rotterdam.—489 half-chests Tea, 500 cases Preserves, 53 casks Preserves; for Lisbon.—2 casks Chinaware; for London.—1 box Gold Coins value £2,500; for Basle.—169 bales Waste Silk; for Bremen/Hamburg.—3,000 boxes Cassia Ligna, 50 casks Ginger; for Hamburg.—404 half-chests Tea, 1, 08 packages Fire Crackers, 7 cases Ginger, 3 cases Cigars, 172 bales Feathers, 1 case Merchandise; for Bremen.—1,89 half-chests Tea, 3 boxes Silk Goods, 490 packages Ginger, 121 rolls Matting, 81 packages Merchandise, 2 cases Peppermint Oil, 2 cases Sundries, and 3 cases Cigars.

The steamer *Melbourne*, Hongkong to Continent, 16th October, took:—427 bales Raw Silk, 6 bales Hair, 5 cases Silk Piece Goods, 6 cases Curios, 12 cases Private Effects, 3 cases Ilang Ilang, 1 case Coffee, 944 packages Tea, and 5 rolls Matting.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 23rd October.—Bengal.—A further advance has taken place in prices, New Patna closing at 757½, New Benares at 767½, and Old Benares at 705.

Malwa.—New descriptions have been in good request and have improved in value. Other kinds have not undergone any noteworthy change in prices.

The following are the current figures:—

New\$710 with a licence of ½ to 4 cts.
Old (2 years).....\$720 " " ½ to 2 "
Older\$730 " " ½ to 1 ½ "

Persian.—A moderate amount of business has passed in this drug. Quotations are unaltered, the latest figures being \$650 to \$709 for Oily, and \$725 to \$840 for Paper-wrapped drug according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

	New Patna	New Benares	Old Benares	Malwa	Persian
	1,440 chests	300 "	102 "	1,130 "	790 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1895.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Oct. 16	742½	—	747½	705	710	720/730
Oct. 17	745	—	759	705	710	720/730
Oct. 18	750	—	759	710	710	720/730
Oct. 19	755	—	761	715	710	720/730
Oct. 21	755	—	763	715	710	720/730
Oct. 21	755	—	760	715	710	720/730
Oct. 22	755	—	765	710	710	73/730
Oct. 23	757½	—	767½	705	710	720/730

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 23rd October.—Stocks of both Bengal and Ningpo are exhausted and the market closes very firm quotations are:

Bombay	\$16.00 to 18.50 p. picul
Kurrachee	16.00 to 18.50 "
Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca,	16.00 to 19.00 "
Shanghai and Japanese..	19.00 to 21.50 "
Tungchow and Ningpo..	19.00 to 21.50 "
Madras.....	17.00 to 20.00 "
Sales: 250 bales Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca, 250 bale Tungchow and Ningpo.	

RICE.

HONGKONG, 23rd October.—The market continues weak. Closing quotations are:—

Siam, Ordinary	\$2.04 to 2.07
" Round, good quality	2.37 to 2.40
" Long	2.54 to 2.48
Siam, Field, mill-cleaned, No. 2	2.07 to 2.10
" Garden, " No. 1	2.47 to 2.49
Siam White	2.91 to 2.94
" Fine Cargo	3.12 to 3.15

COALS.

HONGKONG, 23rd October.—The market still continues weak. Small business in Australian at \$8 to \$8½ reported. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	\$12.00 to 13.00 ex ship, nominal.
Australian	8.00 to 8.25 ex gdn., sales.
Milke Lump... ..	5.75 to 6.90 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Small... ..	5.00 to 5.25 ex ship, nominal.
Moji Lump... ..	4.00 to 5.25 ex ship, nominal.
Kebao Lump... ..	6.00 to 7.00 ex ship, nominal.
Kebao Small... ..	4.00 to 4.50 ex ship, nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 22nd October.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—50 bales No. 8 at \$70 to \$71, 935 bales No. 10 at \$72 to \$79, 590 bales No. 12 at \$70 to \$70½, 175 bales No. 16 at \$86.50 to \$90, 1,420 bales No. 2 at \$85 to \$90. Grey Shirtings.—2,100 pieces 7½ lbs. Red Lion at \$1.90, 3,000 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Peach at \$2.95, 1,800 pieces 8½ lbs. Red Peach at \$2.52½, 2,600 pieces 8½ lbs. Green Peach at \$2.35, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. Wheel at \$2.80, 60 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Cock at \$2.60. White Shirtings.—500 pieces Black Stag at \$2.35, 250 pieces Spearman at \$5.25, 250 pieces X.X.X. at \$5.30, 500 pieces O.70 at \$3.45. T.Cloths.—2,100 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Red Stag at \$2.32½, 3,000 pieces 8 lbs. V.V. at \$2.87½, 1,500 pieces 8 lbs. X.X. at \$2.92½, 1,000 pieces 6 lbs. Red Pagoda at \$1.27½, 1,500 pieces pieces Mexican Blue Dragon B.B. at \$2.30, 1,000 pieces 6 lbs. Bombay at \$1.61, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Red Stag at \$2.70, 1,500 pieces Mexican 4 Stags at \$2.20. Turkey Reds.—240 pieces 4½ lbs. Juggler at \$2.85, 250 pieces 4 lbs. Mandarin at \$2.50, 200 pieces 3½ lbs. Flatman at \$2.70, 500 pieces 2 lbs. Blue Peacock at \$1.40. Spanish Stripes.—48 pieces Lion, assorted, at \$0.50, 95 pieces B.B.B. assorted, at \$0.63, 240 pieces 7 Stars, assorted, at \$0.64½. Velvets.—900 pieces Black 22 inches Bee's Nest at \$0.21½. Long Ells.—200 pieces 10 lbs. 8 Cocks scarlet at \$7.90, 250 pieces 9 lbs. 3 Cocks scarlet at \$7.85, 250 pieces 8 lbs. 4 Cocks scarlet at \$6.85, 250 pieces 9 lbs. 4 Cocks scarlet at \$7.30.

METALS.—Tin.—250 slabs Siam at \$35.35 to \$35.50.

COTTON YARN.

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	\$63.00 to \$90.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	102.00 to 106.00
" 22 to 24	105.00 to 110.00
" 28 to 32	110.00 to 115.00
" 38 to 42	119.00 to 127.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6lbs.	1.40 to 1.55
7lbs.	1.90 to 2.10
8.4 lbs.	2.15 to 3.10
9 to 10 lbs.	3.20 to 4.00
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.20 to 2.45
58 to 60 "	2.60 to 3.20
64 to 66 "	3.30 to 3.70
Fine	4.00 to 6.50
Book-folds.	2.90 to 5.20
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.62 to 1.28
T.Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y.	1.45 to 1.60
7lbs. (32 ")	1.85 to 2.00
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs.	1.60 to 1.75
7lbs. (32 ")	2.10 to 2.40
8 to 8½lbs. (36 in.)	2.35 to 3.10
Drills, English—40 yds. 13½ to 14½lbs.	3.20 to 4.30

FANCY COTTONS.

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 5lbs.	1.40 to 3.00
Brocades—Dyed	3.85 to 4.70
Damasks.....	0.14 to 0.18
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08 to 0.12
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.22 to 0.30
Velveteens—18 in.	0.18 to 0.21

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.45 to 0.90

WOOLLENS per yard

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.60 to 0.95
Gorman.....	1.00 to 1.15
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.	1.25 to 2.70
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.50 to 7.80
Assorted	6.60 to 7.90
Camlets—Assorted	14.00 to 30.50
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted	14.00 to 22.60

Orleans—Plain..... 3.80 to 5.10

Blankets—8 to 12lbs. 4.70 to 9.50

METALS per picul

Iron—Nail Rod	2.97½ to 3.0
Square, Flat Round Bar	2.92½ to 2.95
Swedish Bar	4.40 to —
Small Round Rod	3.25 to —
Hoop	4.10 to —
Old Wire Rope	3.00 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	6.35 to —

Yellow Metal—Muntz, 14/28 oz. 25.50 to —

Vivian's, 16/32 oz. 25.00 to —

Elliot's, 16/32 oz. 25.00 to —

Japan Copper, Slabs 24.00 to — || Tiles | 24.00 to — |
| Tin | 36.50 to — |
| Tin-Plates | 5.40 to — |

Steel	per cwt. case	5.50 to —
SUNDRIES	picul per	—
Quicksilver	112.00 to —	
Window Glass	per box	3.25 to —
Kerosene Oil	per 10-gal. case	1.77 to —

SHANGHAI, 18th October.—(From Mr. Geo. W. Noel's report.)—A weaker exchange and stronger markets at the centres of production consequent on the further rise in Cotton have almost entirely put a stop to business locally, but fortunately the deliveries continue sufficiently satisfactory to show there is no falling off in the consumptive demand. Prices in the country, however, are responding very slowly to the advances required here to cover present laid down cost, the weakness displayed in the Cottons at the auction this morning being most inexplicable, as importers are by no means inclined to press sales, and these were the only ones offered publicly this week. Unless absolutely forced to buy, the Tientsin dealers seem determined to hold off as long as they can, in the vain hope of being able to get in on better terms later on, but the chance of doing that is becoming fainter and fainter every day now, and the time available very short. There is no doubt that the supplies sent to Newchwang, although rather in excess of current requirements, will soon be worked off and buyers for that market will probably commence operations again in another week or ten days, to send up before the port closes for the winter. Nothing definite appears to be settled yet about the evacuation of the Peninsula by the Japanese, though it is confidently expected to take place before the end of November. The Malommedan rebellion in Kansu is assuming serious proportions and is causing the Government a good deal of anxiety, a great number of the troops sent to quell the insurrection going over to the rebels. The movement of troops in the adjoining provinces is said to be interrupting trade to a considerable extent, which would account for the apathy displayed by the Hankow and Szechuen dealers at present, although their season should be just setting in now. The enquiry throughout the interval has been very dull and holders find the greatest difficulty in raising their prices, consequently hardly anything has been done from stock, and much less in forward contracts, although it is rumoured that some fairly large lines in the Standard American makes of Sheetings have gone through at the close, which may account partly for the excited state that market is said to be in. One thing is certain, if the goods are wanted here at all, they will have to be paid up for, as there is not the slightest prospect of their being any cheaper for some months to come.

Metals and Miscellaneous.—(From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's report.)—18th October:—Since last week there has been a little change. Generally native metal dealers exhibit the same cautious attitude toward the continued rise of home prices. The advance of values at home continues steadily and is confined to no single branch of industry. Revival is the order of the day, and prices appear to be more likely to rise still further than fall. Lead.—Stocks are reported to be 250/300 tons L.B. and 750/800 tons Australians. Prices are firm with an upward tendency. L.B. is said to be coming in larger pigs (220 lbs. about) than formerly (155/160 lbs.) No sales are reported. Iron.—Numerous contracts have been made within the last month for both old and new metals of which details are only gradually leaking out. The demand for railroads has been fairly well discounted, but steadily rising values on the other side are beginning to convince dealers that they must buy now if ever. Belgian now at 108/- to 110/- c.i.f. Contracts for iron, scrap, horseshoes, tyres, steel plate cuttings, and numerous other lines have been booked but not made public. The Old Iron market at home from all accounts is tending steadily upward and although prices asked have already touched a higher point than for two years no sign is shown of any weakness. On this side, however, dealers cannot pluck up courage to venture. Some importers are reported to have bought heavily, speculating for a rise. Tinplates.—Demand is good mainly for Japan; stocks are being cleared rapidly and buyers are again in the market for "future."

WEDNESDAY, 23rd October. CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

EXCHANGE

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/2½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/2½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	—

Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/3
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/3½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.78
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.84½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.25
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	54
Credits, 60 days' sight	55½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	193½
Bank, on demand	193½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	193½
Bank, on demand	193½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	par.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	4 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	par.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$8.89
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	47.50

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 23rd October.—The market has continued to rule comparatively quiet and rates in several instances show a decline. At time of writing market closes steady at quotations.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have further declined to 187 per cent. prem., after small sales at 188 and 187½. Nationals have been dealt in at \$30 for A and at \$30½ for B shares.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have continued in fair demand at \$75 and several small sales have been effected at that rate. At time of writing a sale in reported at \$75½. Unions have remained unchanged with no business. Other Marine stocks have also ruled neglected.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have continued weak, offers to sell at \$260 meeting with no response; a small sale is reported at \$257½. Chinas have continued in good demand up North and a fair number of shares have changed hands at \$90 cash, \$91½ for December 31st, and at \$93 and \$94 for March. At time of writing shares are enquired for at \$91 cash, but none seem forthcoming.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao have somewhat recovered, a fair number of shares having changed hands at \$35½ and \$36 for cash; more shares are obtainable at latter rate, but buyers are willing to operate further at \$35½. Douglas's have changed hands at \$68 and \$67, closing firm at latter rate. China and Manilas have gone back to \$66 after sales at \$70, \$69, \$68, and \$67. Indo-Chinas have been dealt in to a limited extent at \$61 and \$60 cash, and at \$62 and \$61 for 31st December; market closes somewhat weaker at \$60 cash.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have again ruled completely neglected, sellers vainly offering to part at \$104; an offer of one or two points under would no doubt bring out shares. Luzons have also ruled weaker, \$63 failing to find buyers.

MINING.—Beyond some sales of Punjoms at \$5.50 and \$5.75 and some Preferences at \$1.60 and \$1.50, we have nothing to report.

DOCKS, WHARFS AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks in the early part of the week further declined with sales to 135 per cent. prem.; later, however, shares changed hands at \$136 and \$137, closing with sellers at latter rate. Wharfs have found buyers at \$48 and \$48½, but at time of writing a few shares are obtainable at \$48. Wanchai Godowns continue neglected at quotation.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Lands after further sales at \$69 have improved to \$70 with small sales. Shares, however, are obtainable at the rate. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Watsons have continued weak at \$13 with sellers and no buyers; a sale is reported at \$12.85. Buyers are willing to come in at \$12.50, but no shares are forthcoming at the rate. Browns have further advanced to \$8, after sales at \$7, \$8, and \$9, closing at \$8 with

buyers. Ropes have found buyers at \$147½ and \$150, closing with buyers at latter rate. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		[buyers]
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	187 p. ct. prem.,
China & Japan, prf.	—	nominal
Do. ordinary	£1	nominal
Do. deferred	£1	nominal
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$30½, sales
Foun. Shares	£1	\$30, sales
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	15s.	\$10
Brown & Co., H. G.	\$50	\$8, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$2, buyers
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$20, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$104, sellers
Chinese Loan '86 E.	Tls. 250	10 p. ct. prem.
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	\$1
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$10, sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$21, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$50	\$16, sales & sellers
H. Brick and Cement	\$12½	\$7,
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$36
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$100, sales
Hongkong Electric	\$8	\$6.60, sales
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$90
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$16½, sales
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$97, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$48
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$150, sales
H. & W. Dock	\$125	137 p. ct. prem.,
Insurances—		[sales & sellers]
Canton	\$50	\$190, ex div.
China Fire	\$20	\$91, buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$75½, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$260, sellers
North-China	£25	Tls. 227½, sellers
Straits	\$20	\$25½, sales & buyers
Union	\$25	\$215, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$117
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment	\$50	\$70, sales & sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$9.75, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$17, sellers
West Point Building	\$40	\$22, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$63, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$115, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	\$3, sellers
New Balmoral	\$3	\$3
Punjom	\$4	\$6, sales
Do. (Preference)	\$1	\$1.50, sales
Raub's	13s. 10d.	\$4
Steamship Cors.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$66, sales
China Shippers	£5	£2.10
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$67, sales
H. Canton and M.	\$20	\$36, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$60, sales
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$42½, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13, sellers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 18th October:—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.)—Business during the week has been fairly active, more especially in Shipping, Marine Insurance, and Perak Sugar shares. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares were placed early in the week at 192 per cent. premium, but a purchase has since been made from Hongkong at 188 per cent. costing 189½ per cent. premium laid down here. There are sellers in Hongkong at 188. The London rate is £42. National Bank of China shares were placed to Hongkong at \$30. Shipping.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares were placed at Tls. 150. A large business was done in Indo-China S. N. shares at rather irregular rates; cash shares were sold at Tls. 45, Tls. 46, and again at Tls. 45, for December at Tls. 46, Tls. 46½, Tls. 47, and for March at Tls. 48 and Tls. 50. Cash shares are obtainable at Tls. 45. Douglas Steamship shares were purchased from Hongkong at \$69. It appears that the directors are disposed to pay a bonus of \$12½ to shareholders, and maintain the capital intact. Docks.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. have changed hands at Tls. 181, Tls. 182½, and Tls. 180 for cash. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock shares were placed to Hongkong at 13½ and 137½ per cent. premium. Boyd & Co. shares are wanted at Tls. 180. Marine Insurance.—China Traders shares were placed to Hongkong at \$75. North-Chinas were sold locally at Tls. 227½, Tls. 225, and Tls. 226. Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited.—Shares have changed hands locally at \$205 to \$217½, and have been sold to Hongkong at \$210 and \$212½. The closing rate is \$215. Yangtzes have been sold for December at \$120, for March at \$124, and for April at \$124 and \$126. Straits have been placed

at \$26. Fire Insurance.—Hongkongs have been sold at \$257½ and \$260. Chinas have been purchased from Hongkong at \$92 and locally at \$90. Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew shares were sold at Tls. 300, Tls. 310, and Tls. 303. Birt's shares have been placed at Tls. 55. Cargo Boats.—Shanghai have been sold at Tls. 192½, Tls. 195, and Tls. 197½ cash and Tls. 210 for 31st December. Cooperatives have been placed at Tls. 170 and Tls. 185. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Waterworks shares were placed at Tls. 192½. Hall & Holtz shares at \$22 and \$23. J. Llewellyn & Co. shares at \$35, and Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares at Tls. 50½. In Sugar shares, Peraks were placed at Tls. 35 to Tls. 45 and again at Tls. 43 cash, and Tls. 40, Tls. 46, and Tls. 47 for December, and China Refining shares were purchased at \$105. In Land shares, Shanghai fully paid up shares were placed at Tls. 66 and Tls. 68, and Tls. 41 were given for the Tls. 30 paid up shares, and Hongkong shares were purchased from Hongkong at \$68, and sold to that port at \$70. In Tobacco shares Sumatras were sold at Tls. 110 cash, and Langkats at Tls. 210 for 31st December and are wanted. In Cotton Mill shares, Ewos were parted with at Tls. 20, and shares in the International Mill were sold at Tls. 22½, and those of the Liou-kung-mow Mill at the same rate. Loans.—Shanghai Land Investment Company's 6 per cent. Debentures were placed at Tls. 106 plus the accrued interest. Some Lyceum Theatre Debentures were sold. Preference at Tls. and Ordinary at Tls. 15.

Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—189½ per cent. prem.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited.—Nominal.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, Founders.—Nominal.
National Bank of China, Ltd., A.—none.
National Bank of China, Ltd., B.—\$29½.
National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—\$105.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 120 per sh.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 45 per sh.
China Mutual Steam Nav. Co.—Tls. 50 per sh.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—Tls. 75 per sh.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$36 per share.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$69½ per share.
Roid & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Tls. 300 per share.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 18½ per share.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 180 per share.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—13½ per cent. premium.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$75 per sh.
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 226 p sh.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$215 per share.
Yangtze Insur. Assn., Ltd.—\$118 per share.
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$19½ per share.
Straits Insurance Co., Limited.—\$26 per share.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—250 per sh.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$90 per share.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 305 per share.
Birt's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 55 per share.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$46 per share.
Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 250 per share.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$6½ per share.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares—\$1.50 per share.
Jebeu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$3.20 p. sh.
Baub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$4 per share.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 197½ per sh.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 185 per sh.
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 213 per share.
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$6.75 per share.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 192½ p. sh.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 43 p. sh.
China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$106 per sh.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$63 per share.
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$23 per share.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.—Tls. 68 per share.
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$69½ per share.
J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$35 per share.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 50 p. sh.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 30 per share.
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 110 p. sh.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 200 per share.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd., Founder's.—Nominal.
Kowloon Land & Building Co., Ltd.—\$19.
Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 122½ per share.
A. S. Watson Co., Limited.—\$13½ per share.
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—\$1.
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—\$9.50.

Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 20.
International Cotton Man. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 22½.
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.—Tls. 22½.
China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company Debentures.—Nominal.
Lyceum Theatre Debentures.—Tls. 15.
Chinese Imp. Gov. Loan, 1886, E.—Tls. 275 (a).
Shanghai Municipal Debentures.—Nominal.
Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 100 (a).
Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 105 (a).

(a) Exclusive of accrued interest.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 23rd October.—During the past fortnight there has been but little demand, and the settlements are few.

From Saigon to Hongkong the rate is 12 cents per picul for medium-sized steamers only.

From Bangkok to this there is more demand and the rate is 19 to 20 cents and 14 to 15 cents per picul outside the bar.

Newchwang to Canton the demand has entirely ceased owing, it is reported, to a scarcity of means of transporting produce from the interior to Newchwang and consequent high prices of peas and beans. The rate is nominally 25 cents per picul.

From the Japan coal ports to Hongkong several steamers have found employment at \$1.40 per ton and further tonnage might be placed. To Singapore there is no demand.

Java ports to Hongkong tonnage is enquired for at 21 to 22½ cents per picul.

A sailer could be placed hence for New York at about 16s. per ton of 40 cubic feet.

The Norwegian steamer *Fram*, 1,405 tons, proceeds to Newcastle, N.S.W., in ballast, under orders from owners.

There are no disengaged vessels in port.

The following are the settlements:—

Velocity—British barque, 491 tons, hence to Honolulu and back, \$6,000 in full.
Ocampo—British steamer, 1,329 tons, hence to Yokohama, \$2.25 per ton.
Bengloe—British steamer, 1,959 tons, hence to Yokohama and Kobe, \$4,500 in full.
Altmore—British steamer, 1,297 tons, Wuhu and Chinkiang to Whampoa, 15 candareens per picul.
Germania—German steamer, 1,975 tons, Wuhu and Chinkiang to Whampoa, 15 candareens per picul.
Stratheden—British steamer, 2,303 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.
Ocampo—British steamer, 1,329 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.
Iser—British steamer, 1,415 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.
Saint Louis—French steamer, 816 tons, Saigon to Hongkong (re-charter), 12½ cents per picul.
China—German steamer, 1,093 tons, Saigon to Hongkong (re-charter), 12 cents per picul.
Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to Hongkong (re-charter), 12 cents per picul.
Apenrade—German steamer, 696 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$4,200 per month.
Independent—German steamer, 1,003 tons, monthly, 5 months, \$5,000 per month.
Continental—German steamer, 875 tons, monthly, 1½ months, \$5,200 per month.
Triton—German steamer, 1,341 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$5,250 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Benlarij* (str.), *Glennearn* (str.), *Formosa* (str.), *Shanghai* (str.), *Priam* (str.), *Pingsuey* (str.).
For BREMEN.—*Prinz Heinrich* (str.).
For HAVRE.—*Kriemhild* (str.).
For MARSEILLES.—*Oceanien* (str.).
For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of China* (str.).
For VICTORIA.—*Tacoma* (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—*City of Rio de Janeiro* (str.).
Gaelie (str.).
For NEW YORK.—*Wandering Jew*, *Engelhorn*, *St. James*, *Matterhorn*, *Port Phillip* (str.).
For AUSTRALIA.—*Taiyuan* (str.), *Chingtn* (str.).
For PORTLAND.—*Mount Lebanon* (str.), *Altmore* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

October—

ARRIVALS.
16, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
16, Victoria, Swedish str., from Newchwang.
16, Ask, Danish str., from Hoihow.
16, Store Nordiske, Danish str., from a cruise.
16, Feiching, British str., from Chinkiang.

16, Sishan, British str., from Saigon.
16, Saratoff, Rus. volunteer fleet, from N'saki.
16, D. Juan de Austria, Spanish corvette, from Manila.
17, Devonhurst, British str., from Saigon.
17, Amur, British str., from Manila.
17, Daphne, British g.-bt., from Swatow.
17, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
17, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., from Formosa.
17, Taichow, British str., from Bangkok.
17, Activ, Danish str., from Hoihow.
17, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
18, Peiyang, German str., from Canton.
18, Canton, British str., from Canton.
18, Tacoma, British str., from Tacoma.
18, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
18, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
18, Continental, German str., from Canton.
18, Tailee, German str., from Deli.
18, Benlawers, British str., from London.
18, Chw'nshan, British str., from Bangkok.
18, Bombay, British str., from Amoy.
19, Fram, Norw. str., from Sourabaya.
19, Mirzapore, British str., from Bombay.
20, Aladdin, Norw. str., from Cardiff.
20, Ancona, British str., from Yokohama.
20, Fuping, Chinese str., from Tientsin.
20, Holstein, German str., from Saigon.
20, Kinshin Maru, Jap. str., from Kelung.
20, Luebeck, British str., from Saigon.
20, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
20, Meifoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
20, Namoa, British str., from Coast Ports.
20, Tetartos, German str., from Saigon.
21, Taisang, British str., from Canton.
21, Kweilin, British str., from Canton.
21, City of Rio de Janeiro, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
21, Airle, British str., from Sydney.
21, Kungping, Chinese str., from Chinkiang.
21, Progress, German str., from Chefoo.
21, Sabine Rickmers, German str., from Amoy.
21, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Bremen.
22, Lyderhorn, Norw. str., from Kutchinotzu.
22, Kaiser-i-Hind, British str., from Shanghai.
22, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
22, Cheangchow, British str., from Straits.
22, Dante, Dutch str., from Tainanfoo.
22, Sultan, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
22, Taksang, British str., from Canton.
22, Victoria, Swedish str., from Canton.
22, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
22, Decima, German str., from Newchwang.
22, Cromarty, British str., from Amoy.
22, Dardanus, British str., from Amoy.
23, Feiching, British str., from Canton.
23, Braemar, British str., from Amoy.
23, Szechuen, British str., from Chinkiang.
23, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
23, Vulcan, No. 221, Ger. torpedo boat, from Stettin.
23, Vulcan, No. 222, Ger. torpedo boat, from Stettin.

October—

DEPARTURES.

16, Salazie, French str., for Shanghai.
16, Sung Kiang, British str., for Amoy.
16, Nanyang, German str., for Canton.
16, Melbourne, French str., for Europe.
16, Altmore, British str., for Woosung.
16, Inverlay, British str., for Amoy.
16, Miike Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
16, Oanfa, British str., for Shanghai.
16, Ocampo, British str., for Yokohama.
17, Feiching, British str., for Canton.
17, Hector, British str., for Amoy.
17, Java, British str., for Shanghai.
17, Sunda, British str., for Shanghai.
17, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
17, Conch, British str., for Singapore.
17, Coptic, British str., for San Francisco.
17, Hupoh, British str., for Singapore.
17, Martha, German str., for Swatow.
17, Victoria, Swedish str., for Canton.
17, Wm. Le Lacheur, British bark, for Canton.
18, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
18, Cosmopolit, German str., for Hoihow.
18, Picciola, German str., for Saigon.
18, Strathallan, British str., for Hongay.
18, Canton, British str., for Swatow.
19, Framnes, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
19, Activ, Danish str., for Hoihow.
19, Amur, British str., for Tainanfoo.
19, Continental, German str., for Amoy.
19, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
19, Mount Lebanon, British str., for Kobe.
19, Peiyang, German str., for Shanghai.
19, Phra C. Klao, British str., for Bangkok.

20, Bombay, British str., for London.
 20, China, German str., for Saigon.
 20, Chowfa, British str., for Bangkok.
 20, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 20, Taichow, British str., for Bangkok.
 21, Geo. F. Manson, Amr. bark, for N. York.
 21, Adam W. Spies, Amr. bark, for New York.
 21, P. N. Blanchard, Amr. bark, for N. York.
 21, Mirzapore, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
 21, Fuping, Chinese str., for Canton.
 21, Lyemooon, German str., for Canton.
 22, Aladdin, Norw. str., for Vladivostok.
 22, Kweilin, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Meifoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
 22, Namoa, British str., for Coast Ports.
 22, Kungping, Chinese str., for Canton.
 22, Sagami Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
 22, Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
 22, Benlawers, British str., for Nagasaki.
 22, Chelydra, British str., for Calcutta.
 22, Ingraban, German str., for Saigon.
 22, Nanyang, German str., for Shanghai.
 22, Progress, German str., for Canton.
 22, Sabine Rickmers, German str., for Amoy.
 22, Taksang, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Airlie, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Cheangchow, British str., for Swatow.
 23, Chelydra, British str., for Calcutta.
 23, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Cromarty, British str., for Singapore.
 23, DECIMA, German str., for Canton.
 23, Florida, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
 23, Victoria, Swedish str., for Newchwang.

AMOY SHIPPING.

October—
 ARRIVALS.
 9, Meifoo, Chinese str., from Swatow.
 9, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
 9, Kwongmo, British str., from Tamsui.
 10, Haitan, British str., from Foochow.
 10, Hankow, British str., from Hongkong.
 11, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
 11, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
 11, Thales, British str., from Hongkong.
 11, Zafiro, British str., from Hongkong.
 12, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 12, Dante, Dutch str., from Hongkong.
 13, Namoa, British str., from Hongkong.
 13, Mascotte, British str., from Hongkong.
 13, Frejr, Danish str., from Hongkong.
 15, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., from N'chwang.
 15, Thales, British str., from Tainanfoo.
 15, Formosa, British str., from Hongkong.
 15, Kashing, British str., from Swatow.
 15, Doris, German str., from Newchwang.
 16, Cheang H. Kian, Brit. str., from H'kong.
 17, Haitan, British str., from Hongkong.
 17, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
 17, Cromarty, British str., from Hongkong.
 17, Bombay, British str., from Foochow.
 17, Sungkiang, British str., from Hongkong.
 18, Thales, British str., from Tainanfoo.
 18, Hector, British str., from Hongkong.
 18, Inverlay, British str., from Hongkong.
 18, Dante, Dutch str., from Tainanfoo.

October—
 DEPARTURES.
 9, Hock Cheng, Chinese g.-bt., for Foochow.
 9, Albingia, British str., for Straits.
 9, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 9, Meifoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 9, Kong Alf, British str., for Newchwang.
 10, Cheang Hye Teng, Brit. str., for Straits.
 10, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 10, Kwongmo, British str., for Wenchow.
 10, Arcona, German cruiser, for Swatow.
 11, Singan, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, Hankow, British str., for Tacoma.
 11, Sungkiang, British str., for Hongkong.
 11, Normandie, Norw. str., for Nagasaki.
 11, Peacock, British g.-bt., for Anping.
 11, Kaifong, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, Thales, British str., for Tainanfoo.
 12, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 12, Hailoong, British str., for Tamsui.
 12, Strathallan, British str., for Hongkong.
 13, Anna Bertha, Ger. bark, for N'chwang.
 14, Frejr, Danish str., for Tamsui.
 14, Namoa, British str., for Foochow.
 15, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Swatow.
 15, Formosa, British str., for Tamsui.
 15, Thales, British str., for Tainanfoo.
 15, Kashing, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Dante, Dutch str., for Tainanfoo.
 17, Haitan, British str., for Foochow.
 17, Bombay, British str., for Hongkong.
 18, Hector, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Hector*, str., from Singapore. &c.—Messrs. Charles Robinson and H. Lason, and 404 Chinese.
 Per *Melbourne*, str., from Hongkong from Shanghai.—Mr. and Mrs. Ritter von Kontski, Mrs. Potts and infant, Messrs. Crook and Chiu Li Hing, Misses Mitchell and Fleming. From Yokohama.—Mrs. Georgie Hewart, Capt. and Mrs. G. Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. W. Peake Mason, Rev. Cyprien Balet, Mr. Eisenstarke. From Kobe.—Misses Elsie and Agnes Young, Messrs. Safford, H. Young, Williams, Harrison, and John. From Nagasaki.—Sisters M. Clemence and Macasia, Mrs. Oishi Honda, Mrs. Omoto Hayashi, Messrs. Wakagi and Higuchi. For Saigon from Shanghai.—Mrs. Vial, Mrs. Theo. de Bolshem, Mr. Tsenzen Heng. From Yokohama.—Mr. Rapp. For Singapore from Shanghai.—Mr. Ch. Whitty. From Yokohama.—Messrs. Potts and Musamatsu. For Calcutta from Yokohama.—Mr. E. Kearns. For Suez.—Colonel Fukushima Yasumasa. For Marseilles from Shanghai.—Mr. and Mrs. Dankofsky, Mr. and Mrs. Serebrakof, Messrs. Shamonsky, Newberry, Vahowitch, Laups, Goustag, Gouez, Corledge, and Bohlens. From Nagasaki.—Messrs. Chatte, Courtois, and Pattin.
 Per *Salazie*, str., from Hongkong from Marseilles.—Messrs. Blanc, Harry, Barr, and Pasquier. From Saigon.—Rev. Chapin, Messrs. Montmayen and Jules Block. For Shanghai from Marseilles.—Mr. and Mrs. Dujardin and son, Messrs. Tillot, Robton, and Bougnat. From Saigon.—Messrs. Anderson, Belard, Moisan, Montfort, and Hellier. For Nagasaki from Singapore.—Mr. Ayasang. For Yokohama from Marseilles.—Messrs. Giraud and Prizel and son. From Singapore.—Mr. Iyashi. From Saigon.—Messrs. Petchaud and Lagarde.
 Per *Oanfa*, str., from Glasgow, &c.—Mr. Lee-tham.
 Per *Esmeralda*, str., from Manila.—Messrs. S. M. Mears, W. Rand, E. Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. Antonio and child.
 Per *Bombay*, str., from Amoy.—Mrs. Webster, Capt. Bearcroft, Messrs. Payne and J. Jurgensen.
 Per *Fuping*, str., from Fientsin, &c.—Mr. Cato.
 Per *Lyemooon*, str., from Shanghai.—Mrs. C. A. Aldrich, Messrs. M. A. Aldrich, Th. Schmitz, von Schoeler, and A. Jensberg, Mr. and Mrs. José.
 Per *Ancona*, str., from Yokohama, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Elise. Mrs. Wilson and 3 children, Mr. and Miss Abbott, Rev. and Mrs. A. W. Stopford, Dr. Taylor, Capt. Simmonds, Messrs. D. M. Clark, Juan Castaneda, Percy Smith, Ignashoff, C. Ocasny, J. R. Clarke, J. F. MacLeod, O. W. Lindholm and 3 daughters, Souchinoky and child, E. de Ogeda, Nagawa, Wong Ah Sing, Woo Yew Sang, C. Fung Yan, and Chin Fan Kong.
 Per *Mirzapore*, str., for Hongkong from London.—Mrs. S. Keays, Miss Black, Miss Brown, Mr. Hazeland, Lieut. E. C. Carver, Midshipmen H. E. Bridges and G. Mackworth, Cadets K. H. Waring, A. E. H. Ley, E. C. Bosanquet, and A. E. D. Moore. From Bombay.—Mr. H. S. Abdeali. From Penang.—Messrs. Teh Ah Yong, Ng Ah Lan and infant, Cheung Lee Seng, wife and infant. From Singapore.—Messrs. E. L. Descoms and Chansom, Misses Carmen and Fadilla and child. For Shanghai from London.—Mrs. Prentice, Messrs. E. H. Fraser and H. Rhodes, Misses Myers, Miles, Mowsley, F. Littler, J. Ramsay, A. Tranter, A. Tebbboth, J. Grigg, N. Fische, A. Grint, L. Wakefield, Fleming, and Anderson. From Brindisi.—Mr. Wade Gard'ner. For Yokohama from Colombo.—Messrs. R. D. Carson and G. C. Anderson. From Penang.—Mr. F. Haan. From Singapore.—Miss H. Kemper. For Kobe from Singapore.—Mr. and Mrs. Lamberts.
 Per *City of Rio de Janeiro*, str., from San Francisco, &c.—Miss M. Clark, Miss Laura Martin, Mr. Chas. Mattil.
 Per *Airlie*, str., from Australia.—Mr. and Mrs. Parker, Dr. Copeman, Senor Blanco, Lieut. Navarro, Messrs. J. D. Humphreys and T. Kanemaker.
 Per *Prinz Heinrich*, str., from Bremen, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. O. Franck, Mr. and Mrs. Ehmer, Miss Clara Forke, Miss H. Rhode, Messrs. B. Strötzel, A. Ballantino, H. Lutz, A. C. Crebas, Wm. Meyer, F. Hendrie, Dr. F. H. Bowers.

Per *Kaiser-i-Hind*, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong.—Mr. and Mrs. Wong Kam Fook, Messrs. A. Forke, L. L. Darby, and H. A. Collins. For Penang.—Mr. Campbell. For London.—Capt. F. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Murray, Messrs. Hiscock, Hibberd, Yen, Miss Bradfield, and Miss Esam. For Brindisi.—Mrs. Mackenzie.

Per *Formosa*, str., from Tamsui, &c.—Dr. Petersen, Mr. Kaike.

DEPARTED.

Per *Karlsruhe*, str., from Shanghai for Southampton.—Major Sankey, Messrs. Henry Berham, Fred. Clayson, G. Jackmann and family, and W. Slack. For Bremen.—Messrs. Salm and S. Ret. For London.—Mr. Wm. Cutley. For Genoa.—Messrs. Ph. Lieder and family and E. Thurnauer. For Singapore.—Messrs. H. v. Rucker and H. E. Hobson. From Foochow for Genoa.—Mr. G. Siemssen. For Bremen.—Mr. G. Siemssen and 6 children. From Hongkong for Southampton.—Mrs. Herod and child. For Naples.—Mr. J. B. Herod. For Bremen.—Mrs. A. Bauer, Messrs. A. Mugge, W. Temuse, C. Bearseng, and Happack. For Colombo.—Mr. M. S. Mack. For Singapore.—Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Dare, Messrs. Fudo and Ito.

Per *Salazie*, str., from Hongkong for Shanghai.—Messrs. N. E. Moller, Henry Bourgeois, R. Becker, E. Gibson, Tong, T. Matsuo, Kaw Sew Keam, Rev. Lion Martin, Miss Madge Tenny, Mrs. Hagen, Mrs. Kwong and child. For Nagasaki.—Mr. and Mrs. Burden. For Kobe.—Messrs. H. C. Holder and Yip. For Yokohama.—Mr. J. M. G. Pereira, Miss M. A. Pereira. From Marseilles for Shanghai.—Mr. and Mrs. Dujardin and child, Messrs. Bouquet and Anderson. For Yokohama.—Messrs. Giraud, Spitzel and son, and Beschaud.

Per *Melbourne*, str., from Hongkong for Saigon.—Mr. R. C. Edwards, Sisters Tragerolles, Eugenie, Agnes, and Florentine. For Singapore.—Brother Gregory, Mr. Tong Sing. For Colombo.—Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Shaw, Mr. Geo. W. Shaw, Mrs. E. S. Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Holton, Messrs. Seippel and Loriot. For Marseilles.—Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Queiros and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Rogers, Mr. J. J. Naegeli. From Shanghai for Saigon.—Mrs. Vial, Mrs. Theo. de Bolshem. For Singapore.—Mr. Ch. Wright. For Marseilles.—General and Mrs. Dankofsky, Colonel and Mrs. M. Serebrakof, Messrs. Shanionsky, Newberg, Vahovitch, Laups, Goustag, Gouez, Corledge, and Bohlens. From Yokohama for Saigon.—Mr. Rapp. For Singapore.—Messrs. Pott and Muramatsu. For Calcutta.—Mr. E. Kearns. For Suez.—Messrs. Fukushima and Yasumara. From Nagasaki for Marseilles.—Messrs. Chatte, Courtois and Pattin.

Per *Coptic*, str., for Nagasaki.—Dr. J. A. Lowson, Mr. S. Konishi. For Yokohama.—Mr. and Mrs. Elias and child, Messrs. J. E. Stevens, H. Morgan, and H. Andrews. For Honolulu.—Miss T. Goodall, Mrs. T. G. Walkington, Miss Nellie Boyd. For San Francisco.—Col. Buyer Thomas, Mrs. Fulton and 5 children, Messrs. S. M. Mears and A. H. Raud. For Portland.—Mr. A. H. Rennie.

Per *Sunda*, str., for Shanghai from Hongkong.—Miss Ferras. From London.—Dr. Cooper. From London for Kobe.—Col. and Mrs. Rochfort, and Miss Daunt. For Yokohama.—Mr. Hunt.

Per *Mirzapore*, str., for Shanghai from Hongkong.—Messrs. F. N. Firth, A. G. Stokes, Morton Jones, J. C. Wilkinson, G. C. C. Master, and Marangoni. From London.—Mrs. Prentice, Messrs. E. H. Fraser and H. Rhodes, Misses Myers, Miles, Mowsley, T. Littler, J. Ramsay, A. Tranter, A. Tebbboth, J. Grigg, N. Fische, A. Grint, L. Wakefield, Fleming, and Anderson. From Brindisi.—Mr. Wade Gard'ner.

Per *Namoa*, str., for Amoy.—Miss Brown, Mr. Siebenmann.

Per *Bombay*, str., from Hongkong for Singapore.—Messrs. R. Gutierrez and Ad. Zwickler. For London.—Mr. and Mrs. Lapraik, Miss E. S. Turner. For London from Foochow.—Capt. Bearcroft, R.N., Mr. J. Payne. From Shanghai.—Mrs. Webster.

Per *Esmeralda*, str., for Manila.—Messrs. A. Wiell, Jose Padrinam, Theodor Schmitz, Mr. and Mrs. MacLeod, Mr. Donald Clark, Revs. E. Torres and T. Pages, Mr. L. Font, Mrs. L. E. Miller, Miss G. W. Willard.